

Birding
in
Nei Mongol
CHINA



12-21 September 2010

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Summary

In August 2010 my friend, Beijing bird photographer & Chinese National Geography magazine employee, Zhao Chao, kindly invited me to join the Dali Nur September 2010 Volunteer Research Trip (Dali Nur Jiu Yue 2010 Zhi Yuan Zhen Niao lei Diaocha Huodong). I leapt at the opportunity – not least for the fact that it has been almost 15 years since I last spent time birding in Nei Mongol (Chinese Mongolia or Inner Mongolia).

Nei Mongol is a vast, landlocked province in China's northwest. Bordered by Mongolia and Siberia to the north, as well as by no less than eight Chinese provinces (Heilongjiang, Jilin, Liaoning, Hebei, Shaanxi, Shaanxi, Ningxia and Gansu) Nei Mongol is China's third largest province and accounts for one-eighth of the country's total land area! However, despite a handful of recent publications (see bibliography), the province's avifauna remains among the most poorly known in the entire country.

The trip was a great success, lots of fun and with some excellent birding. I saw 149 species and encountered seven globally threatened species as defined by BirdLife International (2004) *Threatened birds of the world 2004 CD-Rom* Cambridge, U.K. BirdLife International as follows - EN = Endangered; VU = Vulnerable. These species were – Swan Goose *Anser cygnoides* (VU), Baikal Teal *Anas formosa* (VU), Pallas's Fish Eagle (VU), Saker Falcon (EN), Great Bustard *Otis tarda* (VU), White-naped Crane *Grus vipio* (VU) & Relict Gull *Ichthyaetus relictus* (VU). We also encountered three Near Threatened species – Ferruginous Pochard *Aythya nyroca*, Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* & Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*.

I also saw one species that was apparently new for Nei Mongol - Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* 欧柳莺. This was perhaps only the second record for China, was well photographed by Zhang Suqing and one of his images is contained in this report.

This report is divided in to two parts – this first section is effectively a daily diary detailing the places that I birded and the birds that I saw on each date while the second section comprises the systematic list.

Acknowledgments

First & foremost I'd like to thank Zhao Chao & Zhang Shuqing for so kindly inviting me to join the Chinese National Geography Research Trip to Dali Nur – it was very successful & great fun! I'd also like to thank Chao's colleague, Miss Wang, for her considerable hard work and friendship. Everyone in the party was lots of fun and its difficult to single out many others but Zhu Lei, Yang Ye & Jackson Xu all deserve special mention.

As with almost all of my trips in China these days Beijing based travel agent Wang Qingyu helped with the logistics and once again I have absolutely no hesitation in recommending her as a ground agent. She can be contacted at –

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I couldn't find very much literature on the birds of Nei Mongol but the following items were useful –

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The bird names & order used in this report follow those of the CBR [China Bird Report] Checklist of Birds of China v1.0.2 (2010) accessed on-line May 2010.

Daily diary:

Sunday 12 September 2010. Drove from Beijing north through Hebei & on to Sanggentalai, Nei Mongol.

Four of us – Zhao Chao, Miss Wang, driver Mr Yi Heng & me left Zhao Chao's office at 08h30 & started our journey north. The plan was for four of us to drive from Beijing to Dali Nur three days in advance of the main party & to do some reconnoitring once we arrived. We stopped shortly afterwards for about 45 minutes to pick up some shopping & finally headed on our way at 09h20.

We initially travelled via the Badaling Expressway (route G6).

Shuiguan exit off the Badaling Expressway	10h12	
Badaling exit off the Badaling Expressway	10h17	
Yanqing exit off the Badaling Expressway	10h19	Km 62.3
Kangxi Grassland exit off route G6	10h22	
Toll booth on the Beijing-Hebei border (Zhangjiakou is 119 kms from this toll booth)	10h23	
Guanting/Yeyahu exit off route G6	10h30	
Guanting services	10h38-10h45	
Jimingyi/Zhuolu/route G110 exit off route G6	11h04	
Jimingyi/Xiahuayuan/Zhuolu exit no. 128 off route G6	11h16	Km 128

There was a considerable amount of traffic, and we made slow progress with several major hold-ups on the north bound carriageway from about 15 kilometres south of the junction with route SXX.

Exit off route G6 on to the Jingzhang Expressway that was posted to Zhangjiakou/Huhehaote (Hohhot)	12h17	Km 143
Xuanhuan North exit off the Jingzhang Expressway	12h31	Km 154

Zhangjiakou exit no. 168 off the Jingzhang Expressway	12h40	
Zhangbei/Zhangjiakou/Shi Jia Zhuang exit no. 182 off the Jingzhang Expressway (We then entered the Zhangshi Expressway with the town of Zhangbei being 50 kms from this junction)	12h51	
Wanquan services	12h59	
Zhangbei South Exit	13h19	
Toll booth at what is currently the northern end of the Zhangshi Expressway	13h20	

We turned right at the T-junction several hundred metres north of the toll booth, crossed over the dry Anguli river & headed towards Zhangbei town. We soon found a good roadside restaurant & had lunch. This took just over one hour (from about 13h35-14h40).

Zhangjiakou district is the north-westernmost in Hebei Province & Zhangbei county is the northern-most county in Zhangjiakou district. Zhangbei town is only 60 kilometres south of the border with Nei Mongol – and a continuation of the expressway that apparently goes from here to Xilinhot is nearing completion & will soon replace route S207

Leaving Zhangbei town we continued northeast on route S207 through a very attractive agricultural area towards Xilinhot.

Smallish (800 metres x 200 metres) pool to the east of route S207 at Km 315.5

Two more, larger pools near Jiuliangcheng immediately south of the Nei Mongol border & also to the east of route S207
15h34

Nei Mongol border	15h40	
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The road soon started to run parallel with the apparently soon to be opened Zhangbei to Xilinhot Expressway.

Baocheng	16h15	
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Toll booth	17h02	ca. Km 205
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Came off the incomplete Zhangbei to Xilinhot Expressway	17h38	Km 154
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Hotel on the southern edge of Sanggedalai (42°40.29'N., 115°56.94'E.). 17h43

My GPS gave the altitude as 1315 metres, my Suunto watch as 1270.

We dropped a few things in our rooms & headed out again for 25 minutes shortly afterwards.

Sun rise & sunset at Sanggedalai, Nei Mongol on 12 Sept. 2010

Sun rise	05h51
Sun set	18h34

Weather

A glorious day – very clear skies (with visibility being 15 kilometres or more!), hot and sunny. It was still about 22°C when we arrived at Sanggedalai at 18h00.

Amur Falcon	35 besides route S207 between the Hebei border & Sanggedalai on the 12/9/2010. The first Nei Mongol bird was just ten minutes drive inside the border, while the second was just seven minutes north of Baocheng & 37 minutes inside the provincial border; while another 31 birds were seen besides a three kilometre stretch of road between kilometre posts 194-192 (between 11 & 14 kilometres north of the Hebei-Nei Mongol border near Baocheng. In addition two other birds were seen near Chabei, extreme northern Zhangjiakou, in Hebei. (1330, 1390 [31 birds] & 1430 metres)
Saker Falcon EN	1 besides route S207 & about 20 kilometres northeast of Zhangbei & eight kilometres southwest of Chabei, Zhangjiakou, Hebei on the 12/9/2010. (41°29.0'N., 114°55.8'E.). (1340 metres)
Northern Lapwing	2 on the edge of Sanggedalai on the 12/9/2010. (1270 metres)
Gull sp.	20 very distant birds on a couple of lakes between the Hebei-Nei Mongol border & Baocheng on the 12/9/2010. In addition another 10 were seen on a lake not far south of the same border & in Hebei. (1270 metres)
Hill Pigeon	5 were seen just seven minutes north of Baocheng on the 12/9/2010. (1430 metres)
Oriental Turtle Dove	1 near Zhangbei, Hebei on the 12/9/2010.
Common Magpie	20 between the Hebei-Nei Mongol border, Baocheng & Sanggedalai on the 12/9/2010. In addition another 20 were seen in Hebei.
Rook	70 besides route S207 between Zhangbei, the Hebei-Nei Mongol border & Sanggedalai on the 12/9/2010.

Corvid sp.	400 besides route S207 between Zhangbei, Hebei & Sanggandalai, Nei Mongol on the 12/9/2010. Particularly large counts included 250 unidentified corvids at the Saker Falcon site 20 kilometres northeast of Zhangbei & eight kilometres southwest of Chabei, Zhangjiakou, Hebei; 40 more were seen just five minutes north of the Nei Mongol border; 40 more were seen at Km post 286 ten minutes further north; 50 more were seen nine minutes south of Baocheng. All the corvids that were seen well enough to specifically identify were Rooks & its highly likely that the vast majority of the other, unidentified ones were also Rooks as this is by far the commonest large corvid in this area (Zhao Chao pers. comm. 12/9/2010). (1320 [40 birds], 1330 [4 & 300 birds] & 1360 [50 birds] metres)
White-cheeked Starling	180 on the southern edge of Sanggandalai on the evening on the 12/9/2010. (1270 metres)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	60 in Nei Mongol on the 12/9/2010.
White Wagtail	22 flew south near the hotel on the southern edge of Sanggandalai on the evening on the 12/9/2010. It was just before sunset & they were undoubtedly heading to roost. (1270 metres)
Richard's Pipit	3 were heard on the southern edge of Sanggandalai on the evening on the 12/9/2010. (1270 metres)
Olive-backed Pipit	3 singles were heard over the hotel southern edge of Sanggandalai between 22h25-22h35 on the 12/9/2010. In addition another was heard flying south near the Bird's Nest Olympic Stadium on the 12/8/2010. (60 & 1270 metres)

Mammals, reptiles & amphibians

Daurian Ground Squirrel	1 besides route S207 just 25 minutes inside Nei Mongol & nine minutes south of Baocheng on the 12/9/2010. (1350 metres)
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Monday 13 September 2010. All day in Nei Mongol. Early am near Sanggandalai, pm drove to Dali Nur.

The four of us left our hotel on the southern edge of Sanggandalai at 05h30 & headed off to explore a couple of lake to the east of town that Zhao Chao had previously visited.

1. Sanggandalai hotel area. (42°40.29'N., 115°56.94'E.). 05h10-05h30

We birded numerous sites today. The better ones were -

1. Sanggandalai hotel area & sites on route to Zhagesitai. (42°40.29'N., 115°56.94'E.).

I spent 20 minutes (05h10-05h30) outside the hotel looking & listening for birds actively migrating & the four of us left in the car at 05h30. We turned right immediately out of the hotel gates & then first left after about another 200 metres. This took us on to a dual carriageway which we turned off right on to an unpaved side road after another two or three kilometres. This latter junction was posted with a brown Chinese language sign.

Common Kestrel	1 male between Sanggandalai & Zhagesitai
Amur Falcon	1 between Sanggandalai & Zhagesitai
Eurasian Hobby	1 juvenile between Sanggandalai & Zhagesitai
Black-headed Gull	45 on a trackside pool between Sanggandalai & Zhagesitai
Oriental Turtle Dove	11 between Sanggandalai & Zhagesitai
Common Magpie	100 between Sanggandalai & Zhagesitai
White-cheeked Starling	120 between Sanggandalai & Zhagesitai
White's Thrush	1 between Sanggandalai & Zhagesitai
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	50 between Sanggandalai & Zhagesitai
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	2 flew south over Sanggandalai
Richard's Pipit	2 flew south over Sanggandalai
Olive-backed Pipit	2 were heard flying south over Sanggandalai
Common Rosefinch	2 were heard flying south over Sanggandalai
Little Bunting	2 were heard flying south over Sanggandalai
Black-faced Bunting	3 were heard flying south over Sanggandalai

2. Zhagesitai (literally 'Lake with Fish' in Mongolian), Sanggandalai (42°36.37'N., 116°15.64'E). 06h15-07h15 & again for 15 minutes on the way out. 1315 metres.

This small (1.5 kilometre diameter) freshwater lake is ESE of Sanggandalai.

Swan Goose VU	13
Common Shelduck	2 juveniles
Ruddy Shelduck	285
Gadwall	8
Mallard	250
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	1
Common Pochard	258
Tufted Duck	1 male
Common Goldeneye	410
Smew	3
Little Grebe	14
Great Crested Grebe	54
Black-necked Grebe	457
Pallas's Fish Eagle	1 juvenile
Saker Falcon EN	1 adult repeatedly mobbed the Pallas's Fish Eagle!
Common Coot	450
Northern Lapwing	2
Spotted Redshank	35
Common Greenshank	1 was heard
Curlew Sandpiper	16

Black-headed Gull	110
Common Tern	1 juvenile
Oriental Turtle Dove	2
Chinese Grey Shrike	1
Azure-winged Magpie	9
White-cheeked Starling	35
White Wagtail	2
Richard's Pipit	4
Blyth's Pipit	2 singles
Olive-backed Pipit	45
Red-throated Pipit	2 were heard
Common Rosefinch	3 were heard
Little Bunting	3 were heard
Pallas's Bunting	2 were heard

3. Hao Lu Tu, Sanggedalai (42°37.86'N., 116°16.73'E). 1305 metres. 07h30-08h50.

This slightly larger lake is about three kilometres northeast of Zhagesitai & 27.4 kilometres East of Sanggedalai. Its possibly slightly shallower.

Swan Goose VU	44
Tundra Swan	1
Whooper Swan	5
Common Shelduck	310
Ruddy Shelduck	527
Gadwall	205
Eurasian Wigeon	2
Mallard	550
Northern Shoveler	1
Eurasian Teal	320
Common Pochard	415
Tufted Duck	8
Common Goldeneye	215
Great Crested Grebe	11
Black-necked Grebe	49
Great Cormorant	32
Saker Falcon EN	1 juvenile
Common Coot	35
Black-winged Stilt	1
Pied Avocet	14
Northern Lapwing	28
Little Ringed Plover	3
Common Snipe	3
Marsh Sandpiper	11
Green Sandpiper	1 was heard
Wood Sandpiper	1 was heard
Black-headed Gull	6
'Herring Gull Assemblage'	6
Mongolian Gull	6
Little Owl	1 was heard
Azure-winged Magpie	6
Corvid sp.	1 was heard
Willow Tit	2 were heard
Asian Short-toed Lark	3
Eurasian Skylark	1 was heard
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	25 including one <i>macronyx</i> & seven <i>taivana</i>
Grey Wagtail	2
White Wagtail	35 including ten <i>ocularis</i> or 'East Siberian Wagtail'
Richard's Pipit	3
Olive-backed Pipit	4
Red-throated Pipit	1
Common Rosefinch	1 was heard
Pallas's Bunting	1 was heard

Mammals, reptiles & amphibians

Daurian Ground Squirrel	2
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Leaving these two freshwater lakes we drove back to Sanggedalai. Arriving at the petrol station at 10h10, we refuelled & used the rest rooms before heading back on to route G207 & continuing our journey north.

Toll booth on route G207 near Sanggedalai	10h18	Km 150
Crossed railway line	10h45	Km 106
Hui Tanghe cun toll booth	11h01	Km 76.5

We turned right off route G207 about 100 metres north of the Hui Tanghe cun toll booth & immediately before the petrol station. This smaller road was hard surfaced for the next five kilometres but then unpaved for the rest of the way to Dali Nur. The road traversed a massive expanse of rolling grassland with no bushes, the entire area being an impressive ancient volcanic region.

Black Kite	1 juvenile at Km post 27 on the road between Hui Tanghe cun & the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha. 1360 metres.
Demoiselle Crane	460 at Km post 44 on the road between Hui Tanghe cun & the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha. This site was about one kilometre west of a small village & about not very far from Zhenzi Shan (literally 'Anvil Mountain'). This site (43°25.69'N., 116°34.37'E) is 8.2 kilometres west of the Dali Nur Hotel. 1290 metres. 11h45.

We arrived at the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha at 11h59, checked in, had lunch & a break before heading back out again at 14h15.

Dali Nur Hotel at Dalai Gacha. (43°24.08'N., 116°40.02'E). 1290 metres.

Xilinhot is 76 kilometres in a straight line northwest of the hotel.

Heading out again at 14h15 we first stopped at the National Nature Reserve & Fishing Station office not very far from the hotel. Here Zhao Chao obtained a good quality park map & found a park officer to guide us that afternoon. The five of us then headed off to Ganggen Nur, the smaller freshwater lake to the east of Dali Nur but still within the NNR boundary. We spent the afternoon there explored three different sites around the lake.

4. Fishing station on the northwest side of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR. (43°18.02'N., 118°36.88'E). 15h20-16h15.

This site is accessed by driving east from the village of Dalai Gacha where the NNR office is. After about 14 kilometres this road comes to an abrupt end at a T-junction. We turned right here & then almost immediately left off on to a dirt track. After about another eight kilometres or so the track comes to a small fishing village and protection station on the edge of Ganggen Nur.

Birds here included -

Whooper Swan	2
Common Shelduck	11
Ruddy Shelduck	84
Gadwall	20
Mallard	310
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	1
Garganey	4
Eurasian Teal	210
Common Pochard	45
Ferruginous Pochard NT	2
Tufted Duck	3
Great Crested Grebe	27
Black-necked Grebe	2
Eurasian Spoonbill	11
Grey Heron	27
Great Cormorant	275
Pied Avocet	3
Northern Lapwing	210
Spotted Redshank	30
Pallas's Gull	1 moulting juvenile
'Herring Gull Assemblage'	58
Mongolian Gull	70
Caspian Tern	2
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	2
<i>macronyx</i>	1
White Wagtail	8

5. Northeast side of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR. (43°18.13'N., 116°55.10'E). 16h25-17h05.

Leaving the previous fishing village we back-tracked, swung around to the north & then headed east.

Tundra Bean Goose	15
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	2
Northern Pintail	2
Duck sp.	700
Eastern Marsh Harrier	1
Upland Buzzard	1 adult
Amur Falcon	1
Common Coot	20
White-naped Crane VU	5
Common Snipe	17
Eurasian Curlew NT	1 was heard
Common Redshank	1
Curlew Sandpiper	5
Black-headed Gull	2140
White-winged Black Tern	1 juvenile
Common Magpie	4
Daurian Jackdaw	4

6. Southwest side of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR. (43°14.95'N., 116°52.80'E). 17h55-18h35.

Although fairly close as the crow flies to the previous two sites it took us a full 50 minutes to drive here. First we had to back track to the T-junction mentioned in the access notes to the first Ganggen Nur site that we visited. We then turned south or left, down this road and drove for perhaps 3.5 kilometres until we could see another driveable dirt track that led back off to the left towards a tall, brick chimney. We drove out across the fields passing this chimney (it belonged to a brick factory). Not much further on we came to the village of Baiyinbaolige cun. Here we skirted around the left edge of the small village & then drove across an area of grassland at the back. We had to open a gate through a large fence & it wasn't for another 1.5 kilometres or so until we saw our destination & the southernmost point of the Ganggen Nur. There was an extensive marsh & reed bed here – and this was perhaps the most attractive of the three sites around Ganggen Nur that we visited this afternoon. Birds here included -

Swan Goose VU	6
Whooper Swan	5
Ruddy Shelduck	134
Gadwall	45
Mallard	155
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	11
Eurasian Teal	40
Common Pochard	8
Red-necked Grebe	2
Great Crested Grebe	262
Eurasian Spoonbill	27
Grey Heron	42
Purple Heron	1
Great Cormorant	138
Eastern Marsh Harrier	2
Common Kestrel	2
Amur Falcon	5
Common Coot	10
White-naped Crane VU	4
Northern Lapwing	35
Common Snipe	8
Eurasian Curlew NT	2
Spotted Redshank	25
Common Redshank	1
Common Greenshank	2
Black-headed Gull	340
Pallas's Gull	1 adult
'Herring Gull Assemblage'	45
Mongolian Gull	45
Caspian Tern	10
Common Kingfisher	1 was heard
Common Magpie	4
White-cheeked Starling	10
Common Stonechat	1
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	70 including three <i>macronyx</i> & two <i>taivana</i>
White Wagtail	25 including three <i>ocularis</i>
Richard's Pipit	1 was heard
Olive-backed Pipit	4 were heard
Black-faced Bunting	1 was heard

Mammals, reptiles & amphibians

Siberian Roe	1
Hare sp.	1

Ornithological features of the day

Decent numbers of waterfowl, especially Ruddy Shelduck, Mallard. Common Pochard & Common Goldeneye were on the lakes east of Sanggandalai where there was also a juvenile Pallas's Fish Eagle, two Saker Falcons, three early Smew, a Chinese Grey Shrike, 15 Azure-winged Magpies, reasonable numbers of both Yellow & White Wagtails and two Blyth's Pipits. Highlights at Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day included two Red-necked Grebe, nine White-naped Cranes, two Pallas's Gulls and our only Purple Heron & Common Kingfisher of the trip.

Weather

Another glorious day – very clear skies (with visibility being 15 kilometres or more!), cool in the early morning but soon becoming hot and sunny. It was a chilly 10°C outside the Sanggandalai hotel at 05h30 but the day's maximum was 26°C outside the Dali Nur Hotel at 14h15.

Swan Goose VU	63 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. 57 of these were on the lakes southeast of Sanggandalai with 13 on Zhagesitai & 44 on Hao Lu Tu. Elsewhere there were six at the south-western side of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day.
Tundra Bean Goose	15 on the north-eastern side of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010. Probably early migrants these were the only bean geese of any form that I saw during my time at Dali Nur.
Tundra Swan	1 on Hao Lu Tu, Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.
Whooper Swan	12 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010.
Common Shelduck	323 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. The vast majority of these (312 birds) were on the lakes southeast of Sanggandalai with just two on Zhagesitai & the other 310 on Hao Lu Tu. Elsewhere there were six at the south-western side of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day.

Ruddy Shelduck	1030 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. The majority of these (812 birds) were on the lakes southeast of Sanggandalai with 285 on Zhagesitai & the other 527 on Hao Lu Tu. Elsewhere there were 218 on Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day. 84 of these were on the north-western corner while the other 134 were at the south-western side.
Gadwall	278 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. The majority of these (213 birds) were on the lakes southeast of Sanggandalai with eight on Zhagesitai & the other 205 on Hao Lu Tu. Elsewhere there were 65 on Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day. 20 of these were on the north-western corner while the other 40 were at the south-western side.
Eurasian Wigeon Mallard	2 on Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010. 1265 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. 800 of these were on the lakes southeast of Sanggandalai with 250 on Zhagesitai & the other 550 on Hao Lu Tu. Elsewhere there were 465 on Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day. 310 of these were on the north-western corner while the other 155 were at the southwestern side.
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	15 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. Just one of these was on Zhagesitai, southeast of Sanggandalai while the other 14 were on Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day. One of the latter was at the north-western corner of the lake, another two on the north-eastern corner & the remaining 11 were at the southwestern side.
Northern Shoveler	1 on Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.
Northern Pintail	2 at the north-eastern side of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010.
Garganey	4 at Guanhu zhan at the north-western side of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010.
Eurasian Teal	570 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. 320 of these were on Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai while elsewhere there were 250 on Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day. 210 of the latter were near Guanhu zhan at the north-western side of the lake while the other 40 were at the south-western corner.
Common Pochard	726 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. The vast majority of these (673 birds) were on the lakes southeast of Sanggandalai with 258 on Zhagesitai & the other 451 on Hao Lu Tu. Elsewhere there were 53 on Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day - 53 of the latter were at Guanhu zhan on the north-western corner while the other eight were at the southwestern side.
Ferruginous Pochard NT	2 at Guanhu zhan at the north-western side of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010.
Tufted Duck	12 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. Nine of these were on the lakes southeast of Sanggandalai with just one on Zhagesitai & the other eight on Hao Lu Tu. Elsewhere there were just three at Guanhu zhan on the north-western corner of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day.
Common Goldeneye	625 on the lakes southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010. 410 of these were on Zhagesitai & the other 215 on Hao Lu Tu.
Smew	3 on Zhagesitai, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.
Duck sp.	700 at the north-eastern side of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010.
Little Grebe	14 on Zhagesitai, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.
Red-necked Grebe	2, an adult & an attendant almost certainly locally fledged juvenile, at the south-western end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010.
Great Crested Grebe	354 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. Just 65 of these were on the lakes southeast of Sanggandalai with 54 on Zhagesitai & the other 11 on Hao Lu Tu. Elsewhere there were 289 on Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day with 27 at Guanhu zhan at north-western side & the other 262 at the south-western end.
Black-necked Grebe	508 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. Almost all of these (506 birds) were on the lakes southeast of Sanggandalai with 457 on Zhagesitai & the other 49 on Hao Lu Tu. Elsewhere there were just two at Guanhu zhan at north-western side of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day.
Eurasian Spoonbill	38 on Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010. 11 of these were at Guanhu zhan at north-western side of the lake while the other 27 were at the south-western end.
Grey Heron	69 on Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010. 27 of these were at Guanhu zhan at north-western side of the lake while the other 42 were at the south-western end.
Purple Heron	1 at the south-western end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010.
Great Cormorant	445 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. Just 32 of these were near Sanggandalai with all of these being on Hao Lu Tu. Elsewhere there were 413 on Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day. 275 of these were at Guanhu zhan at north-western side of the lake while the other 138 were at the south-western end.
Black Kite	1 juvenile at Km post 27 on the road between Hui Tanghe cun & the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 13/9/2010. (1360 metres)
Pallas's Fish Eagle VU	1 juvenile at Zhagesitai, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.
Eastern Marsh Harrier	3 around Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010. One of these was at the north-eastern side of the lake while the other two were at the south-western end.
Upland Buzzard	1 at the north-eastern end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010.
Common Kestrel	3 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. One of these was seen between Sanggandalai & Zhagesitai in the early morning while the other two were at the south-western end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR.
Amur Falcon	7 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. One of these was seen between Sanggandalai & Zhagesitai in the early morning while the other six were near Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day. One of the latter was at the north-eastern side of the lake while the other five were at the south-western end.
Eurasian Hobby	1 juvenile between Sanggandalai & Zhagesitai early on the 13/9/2010.
Saker Falcon EN	2 singles southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010. One of these, an adult, was watched repeatedly mobbing the Pallas's Fish Eagle at Zhagesitai while the other, a juvenile, was nearby at Hao Lu Tu later in the morning.
Common Coot	515 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. The vast majority of these (485) were southeast of Sanggandalai in the early morning with 450 counted on Zhagesitai & just 35 on Hao Lu Tu. Elsewhere there were just 30 birds on Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day. 20 of these were at the north-eastern side of the lake while the other ten were at the south-western end.
Demoiselle Crane	460 were counted at 11h45 at Km post 44 on the road between Hui Tanghe cun & the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 13/9/2010. This site was about one kilometre west of a small village & about not very far from Zhenzi Shan (literally 'Anvil Mountain'). This site (43°25.69'N., 116°34.37'E) is also 8.2 kilometres west of the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha. (1290 metres.)
White-naped Crane VU	9 at Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010. Five of these (a pair & a separate family party with two adults and one juvenile) were at the north-eastern side of the lake & the other four (another family party – this time of two adults with two fully grown juveniles) at the south-western end.
Black-winged Stilt	1 at Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.
Pied Avocet	17 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. 14 of these were besides Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai in the early morning while the other three were near Guanhu zhan at the north-western side of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day.

Northern Lapwing	275 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. Just 30 of these were around the lakes southeast of Sanggandalai with two at Zhagesitai & the other 28 at Hao Lu Tu. Elsewhere there were 245 on Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day with 210 at Guanhu zhan at the north-western side & the other 35 at the south-western end.
Little Ringed Plover	3 at Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.
Common Snipe	28 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. Just three of these were around Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai in the morning while elsewhere there were 25 at Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day. 17 of the latter were at the north-eastern side while the other eight were at the south-western end.
Eurasian Curlew NT	3 at Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010.
Spotted Redshank	90 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. 35 of these were around Zhagesitai, southeast of Sanggandalai in the morning while elsewhere there were 55 at Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day. 30 of the latter were at Guanhu zhan at north-western side while the other 25 were at the south-western end.
Common Redshank	2 singles at Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010.
Marsh Sandpiper	11 at Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.
Common Greenshank	3 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. One of these was at Zhagesitai, southeast of Sanggandalai in the morning while the other two were at the south-western end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day.
Green Sandpiper	1 at Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.
Wood Sandpiper	1 at Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.
Curlew Sandpiper	21 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. 16 of these was at Zhagesitai, southeast of Sanggandalai in the morning with while the other five were at the north-eastern side of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day.
Black-headed Gull	2641 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. Just about 160 of these were near Sanggandalai in the early morning with 45 between the town & Zhagesitai, another 110 were counted on Zhagesitai itself while there were just six on Hao Lu Tu. Elsewhere there were about 2480 around Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day. 2140 of the latter were at the north-eastern side of the lake while the other 340 were at the south-western end.
Pallas's Gull	2 singles were at Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010. A moulting juvenile was at Guanhu zhan at north-western side of the lake while an adult-winter was at the south-western end. The first bird was photographed by Zhao Chao.
Unidentified 'Herring Gull Assemblage'	6 very distant birds were seen at Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010. Judging from subsequent encounters they were almost certainly Mongolian Gulls.
Mongolian Gull	121 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. Just six of these were at Hao Lu Tu, Sanggandalai in the early morning while elsewhere there were 115 were counted around Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day. 70 of the latter were at Guanhu zhan at north-western side of the lake while the other 45 were at the south-western end.
Caspian Tern	12 at Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010. Two of them were at Guanhu zhan at north-western side of the lake while the other ten were at the south-western end.
Common Tern	1 juvenile at Zhagesitai, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.
White-winged Black Tern	1 juvenile at the north-eastern side of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010.
Oriental Turtle Dove	13 between Sanggandalai & Zhagesitai on the 13/9/2010.
Little Owl	1 was heard near Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.
Common Kingfisher	1 at the south-western side of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010.
Chinese Grey Shrike	1 at Zhagesitai, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.
Azure-winged Magpie	15 south-east of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010. Nine of these were at Zhagesitai while the other six were near Hao Lu Tu.
Common Magpie	108 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. The vast majority of these (100 birds) were in the area between Sanggandalai, Zhagesitai & Hao Lu Tu in the early morning while just eight were in Dali Nur NNR later in the day.
Daurian Jackdaw	4 at the north-eastern side of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010.
Corvid sp.	1 near Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.
Willow Tit	2 near Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.
Asian Short-toed Lark	3 near Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.
Eurasian Skylark	1 near Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.
Barn Swallow	15 near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 13/9/2010.
White-cheeked Starling	165 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. The vast majority of these (155 birds) were in the area between Sanggandalai & Zhagesitai in the early morning while just ten were around Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day.
White's Thrush	1 between Sanggandalai & Zhagesitai on the 13/9/2010.
Common Stonechat	1 around the south-western end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	54 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. Almost all of these were around the hotel on the southern edge of Sanggandalai in the early morning while just four were seen near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha later in the day.
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	99, including two <i>macronyx</i> & seven <i>taivana</i> , in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. 27 of these were near Sanggandalai in the early morning with two over the hotel on the southern edge of town before dawn & 25 at Hao Lu Tu to the southeast later in the morning. Elsewhere 72 were seen around Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day with almost all of these (70 birds) being seen at the south-western end of the lake, where they were probably going to roost, late in the day.
Grey Wagtail	2 at Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.
White Wagtail	70, including ten <i>ocularis</i> , in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. 37 of these were near Sanggandalai in the early morning with two at Zhagesitai & 35 more at Hao Lu Tu. 33 others were seen around Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day with eight of these at Guanhu zhan at north-western side and the other 25 at the south-western end.
Richard's Pipit	10 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. Nine of these were near Sanggandalai in the early morning with two over the hotel on the southern edge of town before dawn, four more at Zhagesitai & three at Hao Lu Tu. Elsewhere one was at the south-western end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR late in the day.
Blyth's Pipit	2 singles at Zhagesitai, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.
Olive-backed Pipit	58 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. The vast majority of these (51 birds) were near Sanggandalai in the early morning with two over the hotel on the southern edge of town before dawn, 45 more between there & Zhagesitai & four at Hao Lu Tu. Elsewhere seven were noted in Dali Nur NNR late in the day with at the south-western end of Ganggen Nur.
Red-throated Pipit	3 near Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010 – two of these were at Zhagesitai & the other at Hao Lu Tu.
Common Rosefinch	6 near Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010 – two of these flew over the hotel on the southern edge of town before dawn, three more were at Zhagesitai while the final bird was at Hao Lu Tu.
Little Bunting	5 near Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010 – two of these flew over the hotel on the southern edge of town before dawn while the other three were at Zhagesitai.
Black-faced Bunting	4 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. Three of these were between Sanggandalai & Zhagesitai in the early morning while the other was at the south-western end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day.

Mammals, reptiles & amphibians

Daurian Ground Squirrel

2 near Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.

Tolai Hare

1 at the south-western end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010.

Siberian Roe

1 at the south-western end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010.

Tuesday 14 September 2010. All day Dali Nur NNR, Nei Mongol.

The guys had a lot of arrangements to do for the survey group's arrival & the plan for us today was to have a leisurely breakfast in the hotel at 07h00 & to head out around the lake after that.

Dali Nur NNR

This site is recognised by BirdLife International (2009) as an Important Bird Area (CN081). The reserve, centred on (43°19'N 116°50'E), apparently covers an area of 119,413 hectares and varies in altitude from 1,226-1,300 metres. The third largest lake in Nei Mongol (Inner Mongolia) is located in the eastern part of the Inner Mongolia Plateau. According to the aforementioned publication in the eastern part of the IBA the main habitat is the forests in the Da Hinggan Ling mountains while in the southern and south-eastern parts there are sand dunes, and in the northern and north-western parts there are grasslands.

There are four main reasons why Dali Nur National Nature Reserve is important for birds and these are –

1. Being the third largest lake and the fourth largest protected area in Nei Mongol, Dali Nur NNR boasts a wide variety of habitats. The main lake is apparently slightly saline but there are several other, smaller freshwater lakes in the sanctuary including Ganggen Nur to the east and Liyupao to the southwest of Dali Nur. Much of the NNR is grassland, though there are several larger hills many of which, including Zhenzi Shan (literally 'Anvil Mountain') immediately to the north of Dali Nur, are of volcanic origin. Other habitats in the NNR include open woodland and sand dunes to the south. During our trip we visited all of these ecosystems and were able to see the differences between them and the different species that they each held. For example Ganggen Nur was the only site where we saw White-naped Crane and was also particularly well favoured by Great Crested Grebe, Eurasian Spoonbill, Great Cormorant, Northern Lapwing and both Black-headed and Mongolian Gulls.

2. By Chinese standards there are remarkably few people living inside or exploiting Dali Nur NNR. Other than at Liyupao and a couple of relatively small sites elsewhere there wasn't a great deal of fishing activity and most of the agriculture was not intensive, being rather antiquated and poorly mechanised – most of it being dairy and cattle grazing. Pesticide and fertilizer use was probably small.

3. Dali Nur NNR is an important site for a large number of species including a respectable number of Globally Threatened ones. The following 14 Globally Threatened Species that have occurred in the reserve - **Swan Goose** *Anser cygnoides* (EN, over 10,000 birds have been logged according to Bird Life International 2009), **Baikal Teal** *Anas formosa* (VU), Oriental Stork *Ciconia boyciana* (EN), Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus* (CR), Pallas's Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* (VU), Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga* (VU), Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* (VU), **Saker Falcon** *Falco cherrug* (EN), **Great Bustard** *Otis tarda* (VU), **White-naped Crane** *Grus vipio* (VU), Hooded Crane *G. monacha* (VU) & Red-crowned Crane *Grus japonensis* (EN), Great Bustard *Otis tarda* (VU) & **Relict Gull** *Ichthyaeetus relictus* (VU). During our current trip I saw those species that were emboldened.

The following eight Near Threatened species have also been recorded at Dali Nur though all, except Eurasian Curlew are locally rare - **Ferruginous Pochard** *Aythya nyroca*, Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus*, White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*, Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus*, Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus*, **Eurasian & Eastern Curlews** *Numenius arquata* & *N. madagascariensis* & Ochre-rumped Bunting *Emberiza yessoensis*. During our current trip I also saw those species that were emboldened.

In addition both Chinese Egret *Egretta eulophotes* (VU) & Saunders's Gull *Chroicocephalus saundersi* (VU) have been reported at Dali Nur but the occurrence of these two, almost exclusively coastal species, there is highly unlikely & needs confirmation.

Only a small number of these Globally Threatened Species breed in the reserve. White-naped Crane definitely breeds – we saw three pairs (two of which had been successful in the 2010 breeding season besides Ganggen Nur), Swan Goose probably breeds but is undoubtedly predominantly a migrant through the NNR & BirdLife International (2009) *Directory of Important Bird Areas in China (Mainland): Key Sites for Conservation*. Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International (English language edition) noted that over 10,000 birds (between 10-17% of the entire world population) have been counted here. Asian Dowitcher very well might breed in the NNR - the habitat at least in the marshes at the southern end of Ganggen Nur looked suitable. In addition Relict Gull might also breed on the saline Dali Nur if the conditions (i.e. an undisturbed island) were right.

At least one of the Globally Threatened Species, Red-crowned Crane, with a world population of just 2650 birds [Wetlands International. 2006. *Waterbird Population Estimates – Fourth Edition*. Wetlands International, Wageningen, The Netherlands] and apparently the world's second rarest crane, has fairly recently disappeared and is now locally extirpated from Dali Nur NNR (Zhao Chao pers. comm. 13 Sept. 2010). Note that this species was probably always fairly marginal at this, its previously its westernmost breeding site. Most of the other Globally Threatened Species are migrants through the NNR and the status of most of them is either uncertain or at best poorly known.

5. Dali Nur NNR also holds impressive concentrations of a number of commoner species.

In the week that we were present in mid-September 2010 the NNR already held over 20,000 waterfowl (ducks and geese combined) with particularly impressive concentrations of Swan Geese (perhaps as many as 1300-1500 birds, or about 3% of the world population, that's estimated at between 60,000-100,000 birds (Wetlands International 2006); Common Shelduck (2000 birds), Ruddy Shelduck (2700), Mallard (5000-6000), Common Pochard (2250-2500) & duck sp. (5000-6000).

Two other locally common waterbirds were also highlighted by BirdLife International (2009) *Directory of Important Bird Areas in China (Mainland): Key Sites for Conservation*. Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International (English language edition). These were Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* & they reported that over 2,400 birds had been counted in the NNR though there were still very few birds present (less than 20) when we were there, and Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra* (over 10,000 birds but only 300 were present in mid-September 2010). The figures quote in the IBA publication apparently came from counts done by the NNR staff – but I'd be highly cautious of putting much credence in these numbers as the three field staff that I met, while being extremely friendly & helpful, were obviously poorly trained, ill equipped and unfamiliar with almost all the birds in the reserve!

Significantly the NNR staff told Zhao Chao & me on the 13 Sept. 2010 that they had counted over 15,000 Demoiselle Cranes in fields just outside the north-eastern edge of the NNR border a few days earlier. If correct (& it might well not be as the same officer also told us that there were 150,000 birds present in the area at this same time in 2009) this represents between 5.4-6.5 of the entire world population of between 230,000-275,000 (Wetlands International 2006). Even if this isn't correct the area's undeniably an important staging area for Demoiselle Crane.

Its possible that some species are increasing but the lack of count data makes it impossible identify these with any certainty. One candidate species would be Common Coot – a species that is definitely increasing at several sites in China e.g. Lashihai, Lijiang, Yunnan (pers. obs. & Prof. Han Lian-xian pers. comm. Jan. 2010).

Judging by the sheer number of birds present there's clearly rich feeding with a reasonable amount of aquatic life and fish in the lakes of Dali Nur NNR.

There are very few trees around Dali Nur. There are a few in some of the more sheltered areas in a couple of the settlements (with those in the NNR office gardens being particularly attractive) and a few scattered trees planted as wind breaks (but a fair number of the latter are clearly struggling and dying because of the lack of water). There are a couple of more extensive tracks of stunted Yellow Willow ('Huang Liu') scrub – especially along the lake's southern shore but otherwise the reserve is dominated by flat, open grassland. I'm certain it must be extremely desolate here in winter when the average January temperature is a terrifying minus 36°C.

Dali Nur is apparently shrinking quite rapidly – & has retreated by about 200 metres at its southern edge since 1998 with the water level having dropped by an average rate of 30 centimetres per year during this same period.

1. Area around the Dali Nur Hotel at Dalai Gacha. (43°24.08'N., 116°40.02'E). 1290 metres. 05h15-06h45.

I spent 1.5 hours birding around the hotel before breakfast. The northern edge of Dali Nur lake is about 1.5 kilometres south of the hotel – too far to walk in the available time so I spent a while exploring around the hotel itself & the village, walking as far as the nature reserve museum. There are a few trees and a couple of tiny areas of scrub in the village otherwise its open grassland.

Ruddy Shelduck	20
Duck sp.	30
Great Cormorant	205
Upland Buzzard	1
Common Kestrel	2
Demoiselle Crane	830
Mongolian Gull	20
Common Magpie	4
Dusky Warbler	2 were heard
Yellow-browed Warbler	1 in the garden on the NNR office in the early afternoon.
White's Thrush	2 – one in the hotel 'garden' in the early morning & the other in the garden on the NNR office in the early afternoon.
Eyebrowed Thrush	3
Siberian Rubythroat	1 first-winter male in the garden on the NNR office in the early afternoon.
Taiga Flycatcher	6 – three near the museum in the morning & three more in the garden on the NNR office in the early afternoon.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	250
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	5
Grey Wagtail	3
White Wagtail	16
Richard's Pipit	5

Blyth's Pipit	1 was heard
Olive-backed Pipit	37
Red-throated Pipit	1 was heard
Common Rosefinch	7
Little Bunting	9 were heard

Daerhan cun. (43°14.11'N., 116°44.74'E). 1261 metres using my GPS.

This modest sized village, perhaps slightly larger than Dalai Gacha where the Dali Nur hotel is at the northern edge of Dali Nur, has a large school & petrol station. Its dominated by the neighbouring Mantuo Hill. We spent ten minutes (07h55-08h05) here attempting, unsuccessfully as there was no electric power here nor apparently anywhere around the lake, to refuel.

2. Mantuo Shan. (43°14.39'N., 116°43.99'E). 1362 metres using my GPS. ca08h20-09h10.

Leaving Daerhan cun we continued to the T-junction, turned right & drove up to the summit of the hill following signs in English that directed us to the 'Mountain Villa of Mantuo'. The summit has some small gullies & areas of light buckthorn-like scrub on it that held a few migrants while the northern side of the ridge top affords superb views over the south-eastern corner of Dali Hu. Normally there's probably an entrance fee to pay to access the summit and to do so follow signs to the 'Villa'. We spent a while scanning over the lake from the hill top – though only the very largest birds such as Whooper Swan, Swan Goose & Ruddy Shelduck were identifiable. After that we descended, skirted the western edge of Daerhan & headed around to access the lake edge. We turned on to a dirt track about one kilometre before the entrance gate to the 'Blue Lake & Silver Beach Car Park & Tourist Complex' that's described below. We drove along this track for less than one kilometre until we found a site where there was a gate allowing us to drive north, towards the lake edge. We were trying to get close to the large numbers of waterfowl that we had seen from the hill top.

[Japanese Sparrowhawk	1 bird possibly this species was glimpsed]
Common Kestrel	2
Amur Falcon	3
Siberian Rubythroat	1 was heard
[Lesser Whitethroat	1 bird, possibly this species, was heard]

Mammals, reptiles & amphibians

Snake sp.	1
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3. Mantuo Bay & the adjacent Bi Hai Yin Tan (Literally 'Blue Sea Silver Beach ' but what's called on the English language signs 'Blue Lake & Golden Beach Car Park & Tourist Complex'. (43°14.77'N., 116°42.78'E). 1232 metres using my GPS. We spent almost two hours (09h20-11h05) in the bay & another hour (11h20-12h20) at the tourist complex.

Access to Mantuo Bay is described briefly in the preceding paragraph. Unfortunately it proved impossible to access more than one site on the lake edge as all the birds were extremely nervous & wary & we unfortunately ended up flushing many of them. Many of them flew about one kilometre further up the eastern shoreline – but we could see no way of approaching them again without flushing them for a second time & decided not to bother. Mantuo Bay held just over 5000 waterfowl with highlights including impressive numbers of Swan Geese, three Bar-headed Geese, reasonable numbers of both species of shelduck and good number of both Mallard & Common Pochard. Unfortunately we were still unable to identify over 40% of the total number of waterfowl present! After just over 1.5 hours here, much of which was spent trying to find another lake edge access point, we headed off to our next site.

The 'Blue Lake & Silver Beach Car Park & Tourist Complex' apparently charge a fee to enter though we were exempt because of the survey. Parking up in the large car park we headed out on a 500 metre looping boardwalk trail that initially took us through some very interesting and apparently locally unique moist Yellow Willow scrub habitat. Other than a vocal Willow Tit & a migrant Yellow-browed Warbler the latter held rather few birds however. Once through this scrub the boardwalk led us over an equally attractive area of marsh and bog right up to the lake edge. The marshy area held quite a few snipe & would perhaps be particularly interesting in spring and early summer. The lake edge held a few shorebirds, a first-winter Relict Gull, a decent flock of Caspian Terns but, unlike the bay a few kilometres to the east, almost no waterfowl. Leaving the tourist complex at 12h20 we retraced our route around the southern side of Mantuo Shan, back through Daershan cun & north up the eastern side of Dali Nur. The high speed, rather reckless drive back to the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha took 25 minutes.

Swan Goose VU	620
Bar-headed Goose	3
Whooper Swan	1
Common Shelduck	455
Ruddy Shelduck	725
Gadwall	20
Eurasian Wigeon	10
Mallard	780
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	10
Northern Shoveler	2
Northern Pintail	5
Eurasian Teal	20
Common Pochard	410
Tufted Duck	2
Duck sp.	2000
Great Crested Grebe	35
Grey Heron	31

Great Cormorant	55
Black Kite	1
Eastern Marsh Harrier	4
Upland Buzzard	1
Eurasian Hobby	1
Pied Avocet	7
Northern Lapwing	8
Pacific Golden Plover	1 was heard
Kentish Plover	1
Pintail or Swinhoe's Snipe	1 by the 'Blue Lake & Silver Beach Car Park & Tourist Complex' in Mantuo Wan at the southern end of Dali Nur.
Common Snipe	8
'Eastern' Black-tailed Godwit	17
Spotted Redshank	3
Temminck's Stint	3
Black-headed Gull	150
Relict Gull VU	1 first-winter on the lake edge by the 'Blue Lake & Silver Beach Car Park & Tourist Complex' in Mantuo Wan at the southern end of Dali Nur.
Pallas's Gull	1 adult-winter
Mongolian Gull	100
Caspian Tern	51
Oriental Turtle Dove	1
Common Magpie	20
Daurian Jackdaw	7
Willow Tit	1
Asian Short-toed Lark	2
Eurasian Skylark	2
Dusky Warbler	2 were heard
Yellow-browed Warbler	1 was heard
[Lanceolated Warbler	1 bird, possibly this species, was heard]
White-cheeked Starling	18
Common Stonechat	6
Northern Wheatear	1
Taiga Flycatcher	2
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	100
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	25 including one <i>macronyx</i> & five <i>taivana</i>
Grey Wagtail	2
White Wagtail	25. All five birds that were racially assigned were <i>ocularis</i> .
Richard's Pipit	4
Olive-backed Pipit	15
Red-throated Pipit	4
Tristram's Bunting	1
Little Bunting	4 were heard
Black-faced Bunting	1 was heard

Mammals, reptiles & amphibians

Siberian Roe	3
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We returned to the hotel for lunch & in the afternoon drove a circular loop down the western side of Dali Nur. We stopped at three main sites on the drive -

4. Liyupao. (43°15.22'N., 116°24.46'E). 1290 metres using my GPS. 15h46-16h30.

This small freshwater lake in the very south-western corner of Dali Nur NNR was about a forty minute drive from the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha. In a straight line it is 26.7 kilometres south west of the Dali Nur Hotel. We accessed the irregularly-shaped lake by driving almost half-way back towards Hui Tanghe on the same road that we arrived at Dali Nur on. Unfortunately however Liyupao itself didn't hold very many birds. It was perhaps a bit deeper than the larger Ganggen Nur (the sides were certainly a bit steeper) & had a large number of fishing nets and a couple of active small fishing boats on it. Other than modest numbers of Great Crested & Black-necked Grebe, two discrete and fairly large flocks of Daurian Jackdaws & our only Common Moorhen & Eurasian Collared Dove of the visit, there was little else of note.

Gadwall	8
Eurasian Wigeon	24
Garganey	1
Common Pochard	20
Common Goldeneye	3
Little Grebe	11
Great Crested Grebe	103
Black-necked Grebe	67
Grey Heron	21
Great Cormorant	1
Common Moorhen	1
Common Coot	30
Northern Lapwing	15
Common Snipe	1
Spotted Redshank	9
Common Greenshank	1
Black-headed Gull	75
Common Tern	2

Oriental Turtle Dove	1
Eurasian Collared Dove	1
Common Magpie	30
Daurian Jackdaw	530. Birds were seen in two flocks – one of 185 & the other of 345 birds.
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	6
White Wagtail	2
Olive-backed Pipit	2

5. Honggou (literally Red Valley'). (43°15.73'N., 116°29.44'E). 16h50-17h25.

This site – a large bay in the south-western corner of Dali Nur is about a ten minute drive north of the historic, archaeological settlement at Baiyinchagan. The latter was apparently a major Mongolian settlement and, while there's little visible today other than a few tumbled walls & grass-covered mounds, it clearly was once a large, thriving settlement. A poor quality, un-surfaced track runs north-south & parallel with the eastern flank of Dali Nur – though its probably only navigable in a four-wheel drive vehicle, or something with high clearance. The water's edge & the bay at Honggou are about another 800 metres to the east of the main north-south track & accessing it is not particularly easy. Honggou held about 2500 waterfowl with modest numbers of Swan Geese, Ruddy Shelduck, Mallard & Common Pochard being the main features.

Swan Goose VU	86
Common Shelduck	70
Ruddy Shelduck	495
Gadwall	7
Eurasian Wigeon	7
Mallard	950
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	3
Northern Shoveler	5
Northern Pintail	7
Eurasian Teal	20
Common Pochard	735
Tufted Duck	5
Common Goldeneye	15
Little Grebe	3
Great Crested Grebe	47
Black-necked Grebe	17
Grey Heron	17
Great Cormorant	54
Black Kite	1
Common Kestrel	1
Common Coot	35
Northern Lapwing	17
Pacific Golden Plover	9
'Eastern' Black-tailed Godwit	25
Spotted Redshank	15
Black-headed Gull	100
Mongolian Gull	35

6. Fenghuangzui (literally 'Phoenix Bill Bay'). (43°18.47'N., 116°33.86'E). 17h35-18h20.

This site is about 7.8 kilometres northeast of the previous site, Honggou & 13.3 kilometres southwest of the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha. It held about 2300 waterfowl (very slightly fewer than Honggou) with decent numbers of Mallard & Common Pochard being the main features.

Swan Goose VU	112
Whooper Swan	5
Common Shelduck	135
Ruddy Shelduck	345
Eurasian Wigeon	5
Mallard	820
Northern Pintail	5
Eurasian Teal	35
Common Pochard	825
Common Goldeneye	10
Great Crested Grebe	15
Black-necked Grebe	3
Grey Heron	22
Great Cormorant	38
Common Kestrel	1
'Eastern' Black-tailed Godwit	33
Black-headed Gull	40
Mongolian Gull	10
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	5
White Wagtail	6
Richard's Pipit	1

Ornithological features of the day

There was a large concentration of waterbirds (especially Swan Goose, Common Shelduck, Ruddy Shelduck, Mallard & Common Pochard) in Mantuo Bay while other decent birds included reasonable numbers of Daurian Jackdaws at Liyupao and our only wheatear and Tristram's Bunting of the entire trip.

Weather

Another glorious day – very clear skies (with visibility being 15 kilometres or more!), cool in the early morning but soon becoming hot and sunny. It was a little bit windier in the afternoon today. The day started with a chilly 10°C outside the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha at 05h1 while the day's maximum was a bit warmer than yesterday - 28°C in the early afternoon (14h25).

Swan Goose VU	818 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 620 of these were in Mantuo Bay, another 86 were on the lake at Honggou while the remaining 112 were at Fenghuangzui.
Bar-headed Goose	3 at Mantuo Bay in the southeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.
Whooper Swan	6 adults at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. One of these was in Mantuo while the other five were at Fenghuangzui.
Common Shelduck	660 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 455 of these were in Mantuo Bay, another 70 were on the lake edge at Honggou & the remaining 135 were at Fenghuangzui.
Ruddy Shelduck	1585 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 20 of these were seen distantly over the lake immediately south of the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha, 725 more were in Mantuo Bay, another 495 were on the lake edge at Honggou & the remaining 345 were at Fenghuangzui.
Gadwall	35 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 20 of these were in Mantuo Bay, eight were on Liyupao & remaining seven were on the lake at Honggou.
Eurasian Wigeon	46 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 10 of these were in Mantuo Bay, 24 were on Liyupao, seven were on the lake at Honggou & the remaining five were at Fenghuangzui.
Mallard	2550 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 780 of these were in Mantuo Bay, 950 were on the lake at Honggou & the remaining 820 were at Fenghuangzui.
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	13 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. Ten of these were in Mantuo Bay & the other three were on the lake edge at Honggou.
Northern Shoveler	7 on the lake edge at Honggou, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.
Northern Pintail	17 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. Five of these were in Mantuo Bay, seven were on the lake at Honggou & the remaining five were at Fenghuangzui.
Garganey	1 on Liyupao, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.
Eurasian Teal	75 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 20 of these were in Mantuo Bay, 20 more were on the lake at Honggou & the remaining 35 were at Fenghuangzui.
Common Pochard	1990 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 410 of these were in Mantuo Bay, 20 were on Liyupao, 735 were on the lake at Honggou & the remaining 825 were at Fenghuangzui.
Tufted Duck	7 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. Two of these were in Mantuo Bay & the other five on the lake edge at Honggou.
Common Goldeneye	28 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. Three of these were on Liyupao, 15 others were on the lake at Honggou & the remaining ten were at Fenghuangzui.
Duck sp.	2000 distant ducks were in Mantuo Bay at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.
Little Grebe	14 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 11 of these were on Liyupao while the other three were on the lake at Honggou.
Great Crested Grebe	200 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 35 of these were in Mantuo Bay, 103 were on Liyupao, 47 were on the lake at Honggou & the remaining 15 were at Fenghuangzui.
Black-necked Grebe	87 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 67 of these were on Liyupao, 17 were on the lake at Honggou & the remaining three were at Fenghuangzui.
Grey Heron	91 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 31 of these were in Mantuo Bay, 21 were on Liyupao, 17 were on the lake at Honggou & the remaining 38 were at Fenghuangzui.
Great Cormorant	353 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 205 of these were seen distantly over the lake near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha, 55 more were in Mantuo Bay, just one was on Liyupao, 54 were on the lake at Honggou & the remaining 22 were at Fenghuangzui.
Black Kite	4 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.
Eastern Marsh Harrier	4 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. They were all in the Silver Beach/Mantuo Bay area & involved one adult male, one adult female & two different juveniles.
Upland Buzzard	2 singles at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. The first was in the fields near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while the second was on the edge of Mantuo Bay.
Common Kestrel	6 singles at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. Two of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha, two more were on Mantuo Shan while singles were at both Honggou & Fenghuangzui.
Amur Falcon	3 over Mantuo Shan at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.
Eurasian Hobby	1 flew south at Mantuo Bay, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.
Common Moorhen	1 on Liyupao, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.
Common Coot	65 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 30 of these were on Liyupao & the other 35 were on Dali Nur at Honggou.
Demoiselle Crane	830 over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning of the 14/9/2010.
Pied Avocet	7 in Mantuo Bay, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.
Northern Lapwing	40 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. Eight of these were in Mantuo Bay, 15 were besides Liyupao & the remaining 17 were on the lake edge at Honggou.
Pacific Golden Plover	10 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. One was heard in Mantuo Bay while the other nine were near the lake edge at Honggou.
Kentish Plover	1 on the lake edge at the Silver Beach, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.
Pintail or Swinhoe's Snipe	1 from the Silver Beach boardwalk at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.
Common Snipe	9 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. Eight of these were besides the Silver Beach boardwalk while the ninth bird was at Liyupao.
'Eastern' Black-tailed Godwit	75 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 17 of these were in Mantuo Bay, 25 were on the lake at Honggou & the remaining 33 were at Fenghuangzui.
Spotted Redshank	27 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. Three of these were in Mantuo Bay, nine others were besides Liyupao, 54 were on the lake at Honggou & the remaining 15 were at Fenghuangzui.
Common Greenshank	1 at Liyupao, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.
Temminck's Stint	3 on the lake edge by the 'Blue Lake & Silver Beach Car Park & Tourist Complex' in Mantuo Wan at the southern end of Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.
Black-headed Gull	365 in Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 150 of these were in Mantuo Bay, 75 were on Liyupao, 100 were on the lake at Honggou & the remaining 40 were at Fenghuangzui.
Relict Gull VU	1 first-winter on the lake edge by the 'Blue Lake & Silver Beach Car Park & Tourist Complex' in Mantuo Wan at the southern end of Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.

Pallas's Gull	1 adult-winter on the lake edge by the 'Blue Lake & Silver Beach Car Park & Tourist Complex' in Mantuo Wan at the southern end of Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.
Mongolian Gull	165 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 20 of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha, 100 more in Mantuo Bay, 35 were on the lake at Honggou & the remaining ten were at Fenghuangzui.
Caspian Tern	51 on the Silver Beach at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.
Common Tern	2 juveniles at Liyupao, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.
Oriental Turtle Dove	2 singles at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. The first was near Mantuo Bay & the second close to Liyupao.
Eurasian Collared Dove	1 at Liyupao, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.
Common Magpie	54 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.
Daurian Jackdaw	537 in two flocks (one of 185 & the other of 345 birds) at Liyupao, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.
Willow Tit	1 from the Golden Sands boardwalk at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.
Asian Short-toed Lark	2 near the lake edge in Mantuo Bay, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.
Eurasian Skylark	2 near the lake edge in Mantuo Bay, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.
Barn Swallow	4 near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 14/9/2010.
Dusky Warbler	4 singles at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. Two of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while the other two were heard from the Golden Sands boardwalk.
Yellow-browed Warbler	2 singles at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. One of these was seen in the garden of the Reserve HQ while the other was heard from the Golden Sands boardwalk.
[Lanceolated Warbler	1 bird, possibly this species, was heard poorly & briefly besides the Golden Sands boardwalk at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010].
[Lesser Whitethroat	1 bird, possibly this species, was heard poorly & briefly on Mantuo Shan, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010].
White-cheeked Starling	18 on the edge of Mantuo Bay, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.
White's Thrush	2 singles at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. One of these was seen in the garden of the Reserve HQ while the other was near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha.
Eyebrowed Thrush	3 near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 14/9/2010.
Siberian Rubythroat	2 singles at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. A first seen in –winter male was seen in the garden of the Reserve HQ while the other was heard near the top of Mantuo Shan.
Common Stonechat	6 on the edge of Mantuo Bay, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.
Northern Wheatear	1 besides the road near the turning to Beihekou, about five kilometers east of the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 14/9/2010.
Taiga Flycatcher	6 near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 14/9/2010. Three of these were near the museum in the morning while the other three were in the garden of the Reserve HQ in the early afternoon
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	350 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 250 of these were in & around the village near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha.
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	41 including one <i>macronyx</i> & five <i>taivana</i> , at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. Just five of these were noted near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while another 25 were in Mantuo Bay, six more were near Liyupao & another five were at Fenghuangzui.
Grey Wagtail	5 singles at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. Three of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while the other two were at the Silver Beach immediately west of Mantuo Bay.
White Wagtail	49, including five <i>ocularis</i> , at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. Birds were widely encountered & the only two significant counts were 16 that flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning & another 25 that were in Mantuo Bay.
Richard's Pipit	10 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. Five of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha, another four were in Mantuo Bay while the final bird of the day was at Fenghuangzui.
Blyth's Pipit	1 flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 14/9/2010.
Olive-backed Pipit	54 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. Birds were again widely encountered & the only two significant counts were 37 that flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning & another 15 that were in Mantuo Bay.
Red-throated Pipit	5 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. One of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning while the other four were in the Mantuo Bay/Silver Beach area later in the day.
Common Rosefinch	7 singles flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 14/9/2010.
Tristram's Bunting	1 besides the Silver Beach boardwalk, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.
Little Bunting	13 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. Nine of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning.
Black-faced Bunting	1 besides the Silver Beach boardwalk, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.
<u>Mammals, reptiles & amphibians</u>	
Siberian Roe	3 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. All three were together & between Mantuo Bay & the Silver Beach immediately east of there.
snake sp.	1 on Mantuo Shan, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.

Wednesday 15 September 2010. All day Dali Nur NNR, Nei Mongol.

We left the hotel at 05h00 & drove, non-stop to a site at the northeast corner of Dali Nur – Beihekou. We spent just over 1.5 hours there before returning to the hotel for breakfast. The drive back took just 18 minutes. After that we had breakfast while, with bad weather the rest of the day was quiet ornithologically - I spent much of the rest of the early morning writing up some notes & preparing a short presentation for the group. The group arrived at about 11h10, having flown from Beijing to Xilinhot that morning & we spent the rest of the day listening to the programme of events and to various lectures. We also visited the excellent reserve museum.

1. Beihekou (literally 'North River Mouth'. (43°21.94'N., 116°42.12'E). 1290 metres. 05h20-07h00.

An excellent site – undoubtedly best in the early morning before there's any other disturbance. There was a small party of Demoiselle Cranes present when we arrived but these moved out almost immediately. Other highlights at this site included large numbers of Common Shelduck & Black-tailed Godwit, decent numbers of Black-necked Grebe & an impressive variety of other

shorebirds including both Eurasian & Eastern Curlews, Little Curlew, Curlew & Terek Sandpipers, Red-necked Stint & Grey Plover.

Swan Goose	VU	354
Greylag Goose		3
Whooper Swan		2
Common Shelduck		830
Ruddy Shelduck		455
Gadwall		140
Eurasian Wigeon		3
Mallard		460
Northern Shoveler		2
Northern Pintail		4
Eurasian Teal		65
Common Pochard		105
Tufted Duck		2
Common Goldeneye		3
Duck sp.		350
Little Grebe		4
Great Crested Grebe		3
Black-necked Grebe		239
Eurasian Spoonbill		13
Grey Heron		3
Great Cormorant		55
Eastern Marsh Harrier		2
Amur Falcon		3
Eurasian Hobby		1
Common Coot		175
Demoiselle Crane		31
Northern Lapwing		8
Pacific Golden Plover		8
Grey Plover		1 was heard
'Eastern' Black-tailed Godwit		1610
Little Curlew		1
Whimbrel		1 was heard
Eurasian Curlew	NT	31
Eastern Curlew	NT	1
Spotted Redshank		15
Marsh Sandpiper		2
Common Greenshank		1 was heard
Terek Sandpiper		1 was heard
Red-necked Stint		26
Curlew Sandpiper		63
Dunlin		2
Black-headed Gull		1600
Mongolian Gull		25
Asian Short-toed Lark		1 was heard
Eastern Yellow Wagtail		2 were heard
Richard's Pipit		2
Olive-backed Pipit		3

2. Dali Nur Hotel & Dalai Gacha village area. (43°24.08'N., 116°40.02'E). 1290 metres. 10h30-11h15 & again for a short while from 14h30.

Grey Heron	2
Common Kestrel	2
Amur Falcon	2
Demoiselle Crane	17
Northern Lapwing	2
Little Owl	1 was heard outside the hotel at 05h00
Asian Short-toed Lark	7
Barn Swallow	6
Dusky Warbler	1 was heard
Eyebrowed Thrush	1 was heard
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	100
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	2 were heard
White Wagtail	5 were heard
Richard's Pipit	4 were heard
Olive-backed Pipit	6 were heard
Little Bunting	2 in the hotel 'garden'
Pallas's Bunting	1 calling bird flew south over the hotel at 05h00
bunting sp.	3 were heard

Ornithological features of the day

Decent numbers of waterfowl (especially Swan Geese, both shelducks & Mallard) as well large numbers of Black-tailed Godwit, decent numbers of Black-necked Grebe & an impressive variety of other shorebirds including both Eurasian & Eastern Curlews, Little Curlew, Curlew & Terek Sandpipers, Red-necked Stint & Grey Plover.

Weather

The temperatures were forecast to drop quite markedly today – they didn't really do so but there was a marked change in the weather. It was fairly overcast (eight oktas) when we left the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha at 05h00. Despite being overcast it was one degree cooler, at 9°C, than it had been the previous two days just. There was also a stronger & strengthening wind. This wind continued until the mid-afternoon & there were a few spots of rain at about 10h30 when it was also 21°C. The rain started in earnest shortly after midday & continued until after sunset. Visibility much of the afternoon was reduced to as little as between 1.5-2 kilometres.

Swan Goose	VU	354 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Greylag Goose		3 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Whooper Swan		2 adults at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Common Shelduck		830 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Ruddy Shelduck		455 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Gadwall		140 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Eurasian Wigeon		3 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Mallard		460 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Northern Shoveler		2 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Northern Pintail		4 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Eurasian Teal		65 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Common Pochard		105 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Tufted Duck		2 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Common Goldeneye		3 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Duck sp.		350 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Little Grebe		4 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Great Crested Grebe		3 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Black-necked Grebe		239 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Eurasian Spoonbill		13 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Grey Heron		5 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Great Cormorant		55 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Eastern Marsh Harrier		2 cream-crowns at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Common Kestrel		2 singles in Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010. The first was at Beihekou while the second was close to the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha.
Amur Falcon		5 in Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010. The first three birds were between Beihekou & the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while the other two were between the hotel and the lake edge later in the morning.
Eurasian Hobby		1 flew purposefully south at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Common Coot		175 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Demoiselle Crane		48 in Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010. 31 of these were at Beihekou while the other 17 flew over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha during lunch.
Northern Lapwing		10 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Pacific Golden Plover		8 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Grey Plover		1 was heard at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
'Eastern' Black-tailed Godwit		1610 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010. As on the previous days all the ones I was able to age (300+ birds) were juveniles.
Little Curlew		1 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Whimbrel		1 was heard at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Eurasian Curlew	NT	31 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Eastern Curlew	NT	1 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Spotted Redshank		15 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Marsh Sandpiper		2 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Common Greenshank		1 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Terek Sandpiper		1 was heard at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Red-necked Stint		26 juveniles at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Curlew Sandpiper		63 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010. All the ones I was able to age, which was perhaps as many as 50 birds, were juvenile.
Dunlin		2 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Black-headed Gull		1600 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Mongolian Gull		25 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Little Owl		1 was heard outside the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha at 05h00 on the 15/9/2010.
Asian Short-toed Lark		8 between the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha and the lake edge at Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
Barn Swallow		6 near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 15/9/2010.
Dusky Warbler		1 was heard near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 15/9/2010.
Eye-browed Thrush		3 singles in Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010. The first was at Beihekou while the second & third were besides the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha later in the day. One of the later was heard flying over the hotel at 21h00.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow		100 near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 15/9/2010.
Eastern Yellow Wagtail		4 in Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010. The first two were at Beihekou & the second two over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha.
White Wagtail		5 near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 15/9/2010.
Richard's Pipit		6 in Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010. The first two were at Beihekou while the other four were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha.
Olive-backed Pipit		9 in Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010. The first three were at Beihekou while the other six were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha.
Little Bunting		2 besides the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 15/9/2010.
Pallas's Bunting		1 flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha at 05h00 on the 15/9/2010.
bunting sp.		3 separate birds were heard flying south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha before dawn on the 15/9/2010.

Thursday 16 September 2010. All day Dali Nur NNR, Nei Mongol.

I spent about 45 minutes just around the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning & most of us left there at 06h00 to drive, non-stop, back to Beihekou, the first site that we had visited the previous day. We spent just over 1.5 hours there before returning to the hotel for breakfast at 08h00. After breakfast we headed out again visiting two of the three sites we'd previously explored around Ganggen Nur. We had lunch back at the hotel after which I spent another 45 minutes birding that area before we headed back to Beihekou for the briefest of visits because of the worsening weather.

1. Dali Nur Hotel & Dalai Gacha village area. (43°24.08'N., 116°40.02'E). 1290 metres. 05h15-06h00, again for a short while from 08h30-08h45 & 10 minutes in the gardens of the NNR office from 15h50.

Common Kestrel	4
Amur Falcon	1
Demoiselle Crane	480
Green Sandpiper	1 was heard
Common Magpie	2
Eurasian Skylark	3 were heard
Barn Swallow	15
Dusky Warbler	2
Pallas's Warbler	1
Yellow-browed Warbler	5
White's Thrush	1
Eyebrowed Thrush	1 was heard
Thrush sp.	15
Taiga Flycatcher	2
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	450
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	6
Grey Wagtail	4
White Wagtail	10
Richard's Pipit	4 were heard
Olive-backed Pipit	12
Common Rosefinch	1H
Little Bunting	8
Pallas's Bunting	1 was heard

2. Beihekou (literally 'North River Mouth'. (43°21.94'N., 116°42.12'E). 1290 metres. 06h20-08h08 & again for 20 minutes from 14h45-15h05

We accessed this site from a different direction – taking the driveable dirt track three kilometres east of the Dalai Gacha. This track led, after perhaps one kilometre, down to a car park. We parked up here & walked perhaps 800 metres down an obvious path to view the birds in the bay. We arrived almost one hour later than we did the previous day & consequently there were fewer birds.

Highlights here this morning included a very vocal, fly-over Pechora Pipit.

Swan Goose	VU	278
Greylag Goose		4
Whooper Swan		1
Common Shelduck		625
Ruddy Shelduck		405
Gadwall		22
Eurasian Wigeon		2
Mallard		110
Chinese Spot-billed Duck		8
Northern Shoveler		2
Northern Pintail		3
Eurasian Teal		95
Common Pochard		135
Common Goldeneye		2
Duck sp.		300
Great Crested Grebe		8
Black-necked Grebe		159
Eurasian Spoonbill		19
Grey Heron		26
Great Cormorant		245
Osprey		1
Eastern Marsh Harrier		3
Upland Buzzard		1
Common Kestrel		1
Common Coot		52
Northern Lapwing		54
Pacific Golden Plover		7
'Eastern' Black-tailed Godwit		455
Eurasian Curlew	NT	82
Spotted Redshank		7
Marsh Sandpiper		2
Curlew Sandpiper		4
Black-headed Gull		550
Mongolian Gull		6
Caspian Tern		1

Little Owl	1
Asian Short-toed Lark	2 were heard
Eurasian Skylark	8
Yellow-browed Warbler	1
Eyebrowed Thrush	1
Common Stonechat	5
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	6
Grey Wagtail	2
White Wagtail	13
Richard's Pipit	12
Olive-backed Pipit	15
Pechora Pipit	1
Red-throated Pipit	2
Common Rosefinch	1 was heard
Little Bunting	25
Pallas's Bunting	3 were heard

Mammals, reptiles & amphibians

Red Fox	1
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3. Southwest side of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR. (43°14.95'N., 116°52.80'E). 09h30-10h35.

Swan Goose VU	10
Ruddy Shelduck	175
Gadwall	21
Mallard	35
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	31
Northern Shoveler	2
Northern Pintail	3
Eurasian Teal	1005
Common Pochard	28
Tufted Duck	1
Common Goldeneye	3
Duck sp.	100
Great Crested Grebe	15
Eurasian Spoonbill	35
Grey Heron	24
Great Cormorant	35
Black Kite	4
Eastern Marsh Harrier	3
Amur Falcon	1
Eurasian Hobby	1
Common Coot	17
White-naped Crane VU	11
Pied Avocet	7
Little Ringed Plover	1 was heard
Common Snipe	6
Spotted Redshank	35
Common Greenshank	2
Black-headed Gull	350
Mongolian Gull	10
Caspian Tern	3
Eurasian Skylark	2
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	6
White Wagtail	2
Richard's Pipit	3
Olive-backed Pipit	5
Red-throated Pipit	1
Little Bunting	4

4. Ganggen Nur Guan Hu Zhan (Protection/fishing station on the northwest side of Ganggen Nur), Dali Nur NNR. (43°18.02'N., 118°36.88'E). 10h45-11h45.

Whooper Swan	2
Ruddy Shelduck	21
Gadwall	7
Eurasian Wigeon	3
Mallard	20
Garganey	15
Eurasian Teal	105
Common Pochard	25
Duck sp.	40
Great Crested Grebe	22
Eurasian Spoonbill	29
Grey Heron	7
Great Cormorant	115
Eastern Marsh Harrier	1
Common Coot	5
Spotted Redshank	5

Black-headed Gull	370
Pallas's Gull	4
Vega Gull	1 second-winter
Mongolian Gull	40
Caspian Tern	4
Common Tern	1
Common Magpie	2
Eurasian Skylark	1
Sand Martin	2
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	100
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	12 including four <i>taivana</i>
White Wagtail	8 including two <i>ocularis</i> & one <i>leucopsis</i>
Richard's Pipit	1
Olive-backed Pipit	1

Ornithological features of the day

A very vocal, fly-over Pechora Pipit at Beihekou was probably a local rarity. Other goodies included 11 White-naped Cranes (four pairs one of which had two young, another one) & four juvenile Pallas's Gulls at Ganggen Nur where there were also two Sand Martins. One of the other groups saw a Steppe Eagle while another group reported ten Western Marsh Harriers.

Weather

The temperatures were again forecast to drop today – they did but seemingly only by one degree as it was 8°C outside the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha at sunrise. It was much windier today however & this made it feel considerably cooler. The temperature had risen to 16°C at Ganggen Nur Fishing/Protection Station by 11h30 but declined shortly after that. It was very overcast in the early morning & it threatened to rain – but fortunately didn't do so until after lunch. The afternoon however was a bit of a wash-out as it rained torrentially.

Swan Goose	VU	288 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. 278 of these were at Beihekou & the other ten were at the southern end of Ganggen Nur.
Greylag Goose		4, two pairs, at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.
Whooper Swan		3 adults at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. One of these were at Beihekou & the other two, a pair, were near the protection station at the northwestern end of Ganggen Nur.
Common Shelduck		625 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.
Ruddy Shelduck		601 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. 405 of these were at Beihekou & 196 on Ganggen Nur with 175 at the southern end & the other ten near the protection station at the northwestern end.
Gadwall		50 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. 22 of these were at Beihekou & 38 on Ganggen Nur with 21 at the southern end & the other seven near the protection station at the northwestern end.
Eurasian Wigeon		5 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Two of these were at Beihekou & the other three were near the protection station at the northwestern end of Ganggen Nur.
Mallard		165 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. 110 of these were at Beihekou & 55 on Ganggen Nur with 35 at the southern end & the other 20 near the protection station at the northwestern end.
Chinese Spot-billed Duck		39 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Eight of these were at Beihekou & the other 21 were at the southern end of Ganggen Nur.
Northern Shoveler		4 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.
Northern Pintail		6 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Three of these were at both Beihekou & the southern end of Ganggen Nur.
Garganey		15 near the protection station at the northwestern end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.
Eurasian Teal		1205 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. 95 of these were at Beihekou & 1110 on Ganggen Nur with 1005 at the southern end & the other 105 near the protection station at the northwestern end.
Common Pochard		188 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. 135 of these were at Beihekou & 53 on Ganggen Nur with 28 at the southern end & the other 25 near the protection station at the northwestern end.
Tufted Duck		1 near the protection station at the northwestern end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.
Common Goldeneye		5 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.
Duck sp.		440 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. About 300 of these were at Beihekou & 140 on Ganggen Nur with 100 at the southern end & the other 40 near the protection station at the northwestern end.
Great Crested Grebe		45 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Eight of these were at Beihekou & 37 on Ganggen Nur with 15 at the southern end & the other 22 near the protection station at the northwestern end.
Black-necked Grebe		159 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR in the afternoon of the 16/9/2010.
Eurasian Spoonbill		83 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. 19 of these were at Beihekou & 62 on Ganggen Nur with 35 at the southern end & the other 27 near the protection station at the northwestern end.
Grey Heron		57 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. 26 of these were at Beihekou & 31 on Ganggen Nur with 24 at the southern end & the other seven near the protection station at the northwestern end.
Great Cormorant		395 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. 245 of these were at Beihekou & 152 on Ganggen Nur with 35 at the southern end & the other 117 near the protection station at the northwestern end.
Osprey		1 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR in the afternoon of the 16/9/2010.
Black Kite		4 together near the southern end of Ganggen Nur at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.
Eastern Marsh Harrier		7 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Three of these, including one adult male, were at Beihekou & four more were around on Ganggen Nur with three at the southern end & the fourth bird near the protection station at the northwestern end
Upland Buzzard		1 near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 16/9/2010.
Common Kestrel		5 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Four of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha & the other bird was at Beihekou in the mid-afternoon.
Amur Falcon		2 singles at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. The first was near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while the other bird was close to the southern end of Ganggen Nur.
Eurasian Hobby		1 flew over the southern end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.

Common Coot	74 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. 52 of these were at Beihekou & 22 on Ganggen Nur with 17 at the southern end & the other five near the protection station at the northwestern end.
Demoiselle Crane	480 over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the first 45 minutes of light on the 16/9/2010. Flocks varied in size from 17 to about 90 birds.
White-naped Crane VU	11 at the southern end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. They were in four discrete family groups with two pairs, one pair with a juvenile & another pair with two juveniles.
Pied Avocet	7 at the southern end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.
Northern Lapwing	54 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.
Pacific Golden Plover	7 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.
Little Ringed Plover	1 was heard over the southern end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.
Common Snipe	6 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.
'Eastern' Black-tailed Godwit	455 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.
Eurasian Curlew NT	82 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.
Spotted Redshank	47 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Seven of these were at Beihekou & 40 on Ganggen Nur with 35 at the southern end & the other five near the protection station at the northwestern end.
Marsh Sandpiper	2 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.
Common Greenshank	2 singles at the southern end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.
Green Sandpiper	1 was heard near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 16/9/2010.
Curlew Sandpiper	4 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.
Black-headed Gull	1270 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. 550 of these were at Beihekou & 720 on Ganggen Nur with 350 at the southern end & the other 370 near the protection station at the northwestern end.
Pallas's Gull	4 juveniles near the protection station at the northwestern end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.
Vega Gull	1 second-winter near the protection station at the northwestern end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.
Mongolian Gull	56 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Just six of these were at Beihekou & 50 on Ganggen Nur with ten at the southern end & the other 40 near the protection station at the northwestern end.
Caspian Tern	8 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. One of these was at Beihekou in the mid-afternoon while the other seven were around Ganggen Nur with three at the southern end & four (two parties both with one adult and an attendant juvenile) near the protection station at the northwestern end.
Common Tern	1 adult near the protection station at the northwestern end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.
Little Owl	1 near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early afternoon of the 16/9/2010.
Common Magpie	4 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Two of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while the other two were besides the protection station at the northwestern end on Ganggen Nur.
Asian Short-toed Lark	2 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR in the mid-afternoon of the 16/9/2010.
Eurasian Skylark	14 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Three of these were around the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha, eight others were at Beihekou & three more around Ganggen Nur with two at the southern end & the other near the protection station at the northwestern end.
Sand Martin	2 flew over the protection station at the northwestern end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.
Barn Swallow	15 around the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 16/9/2010.
Dusky Warbler	2 singles near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 16/9/2010.
Pallas's Warbler	1 in the garden of the Dali Nur NNR HQ on the 16/9/2010.
Yellow-browed Warbler	6 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Five of these were around the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while the sixth bird was at Beihekou.
White's Thrush	1 in the garden of the Dali Nur NNR HQ on the 16/9/2010.
Eyebrowed Thrush	2 singles at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. The first bird was close to the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while the other, a first-winter male, was at Beihekou.
Thrush sp.	15 birds, in a single compact flock, circled high over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha at about 08h45 on the 16/9/2010.
Common Stonechat	5 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.
Taiga Flycatcher	2 singles near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 16/9/2010.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	550 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. 400 of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while the other 100 were besides the protection station at the northwestern end on Ganggen Nur.
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	30 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Six of these were around the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha, six others were at Beihekou while 18 more were seen around Ganggen Nur with six at the southern end & the other 12 near the protection station at the northwestern end. The only birds that were racially assigned were four <i>taivana</i> at the latter site.
Grey Wagtail	6 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Four of these were around the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while the other two flew south at Beihekou.
White Wagtail	33 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Ten of these were around the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha, 13 others were at Beihekou while ten more were seen around Ganggen Nur with just two at the southern end & eight near the protection station at the northwestern end. Three birds at the latter site were seen well enough to racially assign & two were <i>ocularis</i> & the other bird <i>leucopsis</i> .
Richard's Pipit	20 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Four of these were around the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha, 12 others were at Beihekou & four more around Ganggen Nur with three at the southern end & the other bird near the protection station at the northwestern end.
Olive-backed Pipit	33 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. 12 of these were around the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha, 15 others were at Beihekou & six more around Ganggen Nur with five at the southern end & just one near the protection station at the northwestern end.
Pechora Pipit	1 calling bird flew southwest over Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR at 06h47 on the 16/9/2010.
Red-throated Pipit	3 singles flew south at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Two of these were at Beihekou & the other at the southern end Ganggen Nur.
Common Rosefinch	2 singles flew south at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. The first did so over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while the second bird was at Beihekou.
Little Bunting	37 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Eight of these were around the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha, 25 others were at Beihekou & four more at the southern end Ganggen Nur.
Pallas's Bunting	4 flew south at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. The first did so over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while the other three birds were at Beihekou.

Mammals, reptiles & amphibians

Red Fox 1 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.

Friday 17 September 2010. All day Dali Nur NNR, Nei Mongol.

I spent 30 minutes around the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning & most of us left there at 06h00 & drove, non-stop, back to Beihekou, the first site that we had visited the previous day. We spent just over 1.5 hours there before returning to the hotel for breakfast at 08h00. After breakfast we headed out again returning to the south end of the lake – Mantuo Shan and the adjacent bay & Silver Beach.

1. Dali Nur Hotel & Dalai Gacha village area. (43°24.08'N., 116°40.02'E). 1290 metres. 05h30-06h00, again for a short while from 08h40-09h00 & more time again from 13h30-13h55

Steppe Eagle	1 apparent adult over Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') immediately to the north of the hotel at 13h36.
Common Kestrel	2
Amur Falcon	2
Demoiselle Crane	205
Green Sandpiper	1
Mongolian Gull	15
Common Tern	1
Common Magpie	2
Mongolian Lark	1 was heard
Eurasian Skylark	5
Barn Swallow	5
Dusky Warbler	1 was heard
Yellow-browed Warbler	1
White-cheeked Starling	1
Eyebrowed Thrush	1
Common Stonechat	16
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	200
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	4
Grey Wagtail	1
White Wagtail	91 including at least two <i>ocularis</i>
Richard's Pipit	2
Olive-backed Pipit	7
Red-throated Pipit	2
Brambling	1 was heard
Common Rosefinch	5
Pine Bunting	1
Little Bunting	47
bunting sp.	20

2. Beihekou (literally 'North River Mouth'. (43°21.94'N., 116°42.12'E). 1290 metres. 06h15-07h50.

We accessed this site from the car park at what's sign posted off the main road as being the 'Wild Birds World'. Parking up in the car park we again walked perhaps 800 metres down an obvious path to view the birds in the bay.

Swan Goose VU	540
Greylag Goose	6
Whooper Swan	4
Common Shelduck	840
Ruddy Shelduck	385
Gadwall	155
Eurasian Wigeon	15
Mallard	1555
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	1
Northern Shoveler	4
Northern Pintail	11
Eurasian Teal	85
Common Pochard	215
Common Goldeneye	5
Duck sp.	250
Great Crested Grebe	1
Black-necked Grebe	75
Eurasian Spoonbill	16
Grey Heron	8
Great Cormorant	55
Upland Buzzard	1
Common Kestrel	1
Eurasian Hobby	1
Great Bustard VU	1
Common Coot	10
Northern Lapwing	25
Pacific Golden Plover	1 was heard
Kentish Plover	2
'Eastern' Black-tailed Godwit	945
Eurasian Curlew NT	15
Spotted Redshank	3
Curlew Sandpiper	35
Black-headed Gull	250

Mongolian Gull	15
Caspian Tern	3
White-winged Black Tern	1
Asian Short-toed Lark	2
Eurasian Skylark	8
Yellow-browed Warbler	1
Lanceolated Warbler	1
Common Stonechat	1
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	5
Grey Wagtail	1
White Wagtail	10
Richard's Pipit	5
Olive-backed Pipit	20
Red-throated Pipit	15
Common Rosefinch	2 were heard
Little Bunting	400
Pallas's Bunting	2
bunting sp.	300

2. Bi Hai Yin Tan (literally 'Blue Sea Silver Beach ' but what's called on the English language sign 'Blue Lake & Golden Beach Car Park & Tourist Complex'. (43°14.77'N., 116°42.78'E). 1232 metres using my GPS. We spent just over two hours (09h50-11h55) at the tourist complex before returning to the hotel for lunch! In the afternoon we spent just over another 1.5 hours in the bay & another hour (16h10-17h50).

Japanese Quail	1
Swan Goose VU	6
Common Shelduck	35
Ruddy Shelduck	25
Mallard	15
Eurasian Teal	6
Common Pochard	30
Great Crested Grebe	1
Grey Heron	5
Great Cormorant	55
Oriental Honey-buzzard	2
Eastern Marsh Harrier	1
accipiter sp.	3
Demoiselle Crane	12
Pied Avocet	9
Pacific Golden Plover	1
Little Ringed Plover	3
Kentish Plover	2
Pintail or Swinhoe's Snipe	2
Common Snipe	6
'Eastern' Black-tailed Godwit	57
Eurasian Curlew NT	7
Spotted Redshank	11
Common Redshank	1
Common Sandpiper	1
Ruddy Turnstone	2
Red-necked Stint	1
Black-headed Gull	40
Relict Gull	1 – a second-winter
Mongolian Gull	20
Caspian Tern	11
Common Tern	8
Common Magpie	25
Daurian Jackdaw	40
Asian Short-toed Lark	1 was heard
Eurasian Skylark	2 were heard
Barn Swallow	1
Dusky Warbler	3
Radde's Warbler	1 was heard
Pallas's Warbler	1 was heard
Yellow-browed Warbler	3
White-cheeked Starling	51
Thrush sp.	1 was heard
Common Stonechat	4
Taiga Flycatcher	2
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	50
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	15 including three <i>taivana</i>
Grey Wagtail	2
White Wagtail	20 ncluding seven <i>ocularis</i>
Richard's Pipit	3
Blyth's Pipit	1
Olive-backed Pipit	5
Pechora Pipit	1
Red-throated Pipit	16

Common Rosefinch	1 was heard
Little Bunting	8
Black-faced Bunting	1 was heard

Mammals, reptiles & amphibians

Siberian Chipmunk	1
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3. Roadside freshwater pool about 8.5 kms southwest of the Dali Nur Hotel & about half-way between there & the T-junction on route to Mantuo Shan. 14h00-14h15.

During our stay in the Dali Nur area this freshwater pool was regularly used by flocks of gulls to drink, bath & rest. On at least one morning, the 18 Sept. 2010, it was also frequented by large numbers of Demoiselle Cranes right at dawn & before there was any traffic on the road.

Pallas's Gull	1 juvenile
Mew Gull	1 first-winter
Mongolian Gull	145

4 Mantuo Shan (43°14.39'N., 116°43.99'E) (14h45-15h50) & Mantuo Bay. 1362 metres using my GPS (14h45-15h50).

It took us almost 40 minutes of driving time to cover the 36-37 kilometres from the hotel to the summit of Mantuo Shan – follow the English language signs to 'Mountain Villa of Mantuo'. Note that Zhao Chao told me that there are numerous records of Daurian Partridge from this rocky hillside & that this is the only site in the Dali Nur area where Pallas's Sandgrouse is regularly seen.

Japanese Quail	2
Swan Goose VU	711
Greylag Goose	8
Bar-headed Goose	2
Whooper Swan	2
Common Shelduck	1000
Ruddy Shelduck	1200
Mandarin Duck	4
Gadwall	140
Falcated Duck	255
Eurasian Wigeon	25
Mallard	1000
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	8
Northern Shoveler	15
Northern Pintail	10
Eurasian Teal	140
Common Pochard	540
Duck sp.	6650
Great Crested Grebe	23
Grey Heron	23
Great Cormorant	680
Eastern Marsh Harrier	4
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	2
accipiter sp.	1
Common Kestrel	2
Amur Falcon	1
Eurasian Hobby	2
Pintail or Swinhoe's Snipe	3
Common Snipe	57
'Eastern' Black-tailed Godwit	110
Spotted Redshank	15
Black-headed Gull	30
Caspian Tern	5
Oriental Turtle Dove	3
Eurasian Hoopoe	2
Common Magpie	10
Daurian Jackdaw	215 – in flocks of 65, 70 & 80 that all flew west-south-west in the mid- to late-afternoon.
Asian Short-toed Lark	25
Eurasian Skylark	2
Barn Swallow	3
Dusky Warbler	2 were heard
Yellow-browed Warbler	1 was heard
Lesser Whitethroat	1
White-cheeked Starling	70
Common Stonechat	8
Taiga Flycatcher	4
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	15
Grey Wagtail	1
White Wagtail	50
Richard's Pipit	3
Olive-backed Pipit	5
Red-throated Pipit	3
Buff-bellied Pipit	2 was heard
Meadow Bunting	1
Little Bunting	5

Ornithological features of the day

Large numbers of waterfowl at both Beihekou & Mantuo Bay with additions including 255 Falcated and four Mandarin at the latter site. There were also decent numbers of Black-tailed Godwits still at Beihekou. Elsewhere a Mongolian Lark flew south past the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning, the first of only two Lanceolated Warblers was at Beihekou & there was a Radde's Warbler in the willow scrub at Silver Beach.

Other observers saw the following species –

Red-necked Grebe – an adult-summer on Liyupao (Yang Ye et al.);

one Chinese Grey Shrike & one Black-winged Stilt at the south end of the lake (Zhao Chao et al.).

Weather

A much better day – cold but with no rain & less wind. It was 6°C outside the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha near sunrise (05h30). The temperature had risen to 14°C outside the hotel by the early afternoon (13h30) but had already dropped back to 10°C in Mantuo Bay by 17h50.

Japanese Quail	3 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. One of these was at Beihekou while the other two were on the edge of Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Swan Goose	1257 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 540 were at Beihekou in the early morning, another six were on the Silver Sands in the late morning while the day's highest count was of 711 in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Greylag Goose	14 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Six of these was at Beihekou while the other eight were in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Bar-headed Goose	2 in Mantuo Bay, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
Whooper Swan	6 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Four of these was at Beihekou while the other two were in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Common Shelduck	1875 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 840 were at Beihekou in the early morning, another 35 were on the Silver Sands in the late afternoon while the day's highest count was of 1000 in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Ruddy Shelduck	1610 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 385 were at Beihekou in the early morning, another 25 were on the Silver Sands in the late morning while the day's highest count was of 1200 in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Mandarin Duck	4 in Mantuo Bay, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
Gadwall	295 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 155 of these was at Beihekou while the other 140 were in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Falcated Duck	255 in Mantuo Bay, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
Eurasian Wigeon	40 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 15 of these was at Beihekou while the other 25 were in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Mallard	2570 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. The day's highest count was of 1555 were at Beihekou in the early morning, another 15 were on the Silver Sands in the late morning while 1000 were in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	9 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Just one of these was at Beihekou while the other eight were in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Northern Shoveler	19 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Just four of these were at Beihekou while the other 15 were in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Northern Pintail	21 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 11 of these were at Beihekou while the other ten were in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Eurasian Teal	231 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 85 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning, another six were on the Silver Sands in the late morning while 140 were in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Common Pochard	785 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 215 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning, another 30 were on the Silver Sands in the late morning while the day's highest count was of 540 in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Common Goldeneye	5 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
Duck sp.	6900 unidentified ducks were seen at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 250 of these were in Beihekou in the early morning while the vast majority, 6650 birds, were in Mantuo Bay in the later afternoon. The latter figure was arrived at in the following manner. From the top of Mantuo Shan I counted about 11,100 waterfowl, other than Swan Geese, in Mantuo Bay. When we descended to the edge of the Bay itself we were able to distinguish quite a few of these and identified 4350 to species leaving 6650 unidentified ducks.
Great Crested Grebe	25 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Just one of these were at Beihekou in the early morning, another was on the lake just off the Silver Sands in the late morning while the day's highest count was of 23 in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Black-necked Grebe	75 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
Eurasian Spoonbill	16 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
Grey Heron	36 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Eight of these were at Beihekou in the early morning, another five were on the lake at the Silver Sands in the late morning while the day's highest count was of 23 in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Great Cormorant	790 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 55 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning, another 55 were on the lake at the Silver Sands in the late morning while by far the day's highest count was of 680 in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Oriental Honey-buzzard	2 flew south over the Silver Sands Tourist complex at Dali Nur NNR in the late morning of the 17/9/2010.
Eastern Marsh Harrier	5 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Four of these were near the Silver Sands in the late morning the other was in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	2 flew south over Mantuo Bay at Dali Nur NNR in the late afternoon of the 17/9/2010.
accipiter sp.	4 flew south in the Silver Sands – Mantuo Bay – Mantuo Shan area at the southern end of Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
Upland Buzzard	1 near Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
Steppe Eagle	1 adult over Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain'), Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.

Common Kestrel	5 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Two of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; another was at Beihekou in the early morning while two were in the Mantuo Shan - Mantuo Bay area in the late afternoon
Amur Falcon	3 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Two of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning while the other was over Mantuo Shan in the mid-afternoon.
Eurasian Hobby	3 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. One of these flew south at Beihekou in the early morning while the other was over Mantuo Shan in the mid-afternoon.
Great Bustard VU	1 flew south at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
Common Coot	10 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
Demoiselle Crane	217 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 205 of these were over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning while the other 12 flew southwest over the Silver Sands in the late morning.
Pied Avocet	9 on the edge of the Silver Sands at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
Northern Lapwing	25 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
Pacific Golden Plover	2 singles at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. The first of these was at Beihekou in the early morning while the other bird flew over the Silver Sands in the late morning.
Little Ringed Plover	3 on the edge of the Silver Sands at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
Kentish Plover	4 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Two of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while the other two were on the Silver Sands in the late morning.
Pintail or Swinhoe's Snipe	5 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Two of these were on the Silver Sands in the late morning while the other three were around the edge of Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Common Snipe	63 in the Silver Sands – Mantuo Bay area at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
'Eastern' Black-tailed Godwit	1112 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 945 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning, another 57 were besides the lake at the Silver Sands in the late morning while 110 were in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Eurasian Curlew NT	22 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 15 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while another seven were besides the lake at the Silver Sands in the late morning.
Spotted Redshank	29 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Just three of these were at Beihekou in the early morning, another 11 were besides the lake at the Silver Sands in the late morning while 15 more were in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Common Redshank	1 at the Silver Sands Tourist complex at Dali Nur NNR in the late morning of the 17/9/2010.
Green Sandpiper	1 at the Silver Sands Tourist complex at Dali Nur NNR in the late morning of the 17/9/2010.
Common Sandpiper	1 at the Silver Sands Tourist complex at Dali Nur NNR in the late morning of the 17/9/2010.
Ruddy Turnstone	2 at the Silver Sands Tourist complex at Dali Nur NNR in the late morning of the 17/9/2010.
Red-necked Stint	1 at the Silver Sands Tourist complex at Dali Nur NNR in the late morning of the 17/9/2010.
Curlew Sandpiper	35 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. All of those seen well enough to age were juveniles.
Black-headed Gull	320 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 250 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning, another 40 were besides the lake at the Silver Sands in the late morning while 30 were in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Relict Gull	1 second-winter on the Silver Sands at the southern end of Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
Pallas's Gull	1 juvenile with other gulls on a small, roadside freshwater pool not far from Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
Mew Gull	1 first-winter with other gulls on a small, roadside freshwater pool not far from Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
Mongolian Gull	195 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 15 of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; another 15 were at Beihekou; 20 more were near the Silver Sands at the southern end of the lake while were besides the lake at the Silver Sands in the late morning while 145 were with other gulls on a small, roadside freshwater pool not far from Beihekou in the early afternoon.
Caspian Tern	19 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Three of these, two adults and an attendant juvenile, were at Beihekou in the early morning; another 11 were besides the lake at the Silver Sands in the late morning while the remaining five were in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Common Tern	9 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. The first of these, an adult, flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning while the other eight were off the Silver Sands at the southern end of the lake in the late morning.
White-winged Black Tern	1 juvenile at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
Oriental Turtle Dove	3 on the edge of Mantuo Bay at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 17/9/2010.
Eurasian Hoopoe	2 on the edge of Mantuo Bay, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
Common Magpie	37 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. The first two of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha; another 25 were between there, Mantuo Shan & the Silver Sands in the late morning while the remaining ten birds were in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Daurian Jackdaw	255 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 40 of these were near Daerhan cun near Mantuo Shan in the late morning while the other 215 flew west along the lakes southern shore at Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Mongolian Lark	1 flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning of the 17/9/2010.
Asian Short-toed Lark	28 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Two of these were at Beihekou in the early morning; another single flew over the Silver Sands in the late morning while the remaining 25 were in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Eurasian Skylark	17 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Five of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; eight more were at Beihekou; another two birds flew over the Silver Sands in the late morning while the remaining two were in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Barn Swallow	9 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Five of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; another was over the Silver Sands in the late morning while the remaining three were over Mantuo Shan mid-afternoon.
Dusky Warbler	6 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. One of these was near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; another three were in the Yellow Birch scrub at the Silver Sands in the late morning while the remaining two were on the edge of Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Radde's Warbler	1 from the boardwalk trail through the Yellow Birch scrub at the Silver Sands at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
Pallas's Warbler	1 from the boardwalk trail through the Yellow Birch scrub at the Silver Sands at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
Yellow-browed Warbler	6 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. One of these was near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; another was at Beihekou; three were noted from the boardwalk trail through the Yellow Birch scrub at the Silver Sands in the late morning while the final bird was in scrub on the edge of Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Lanceolated Warbler	1 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
Lesser Whitethroat	1 in scrub on the edge of Mantuo Bay, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
White-cheeked Starling	122 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. One of these was near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; another 51 were in the Silver Sands car park in the late morning while the remaining 70 birds were in scrub on the edge of Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.

Eyebrowed Thrush	1 near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha, Dali Nur NNR early on the 17/9/2010.
Thrush sp.	1 near the Silver Sands, Dali Nur NNR early on the 17/9/2010.
Common Stonechat	29 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 16 of these was near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; another was at Beihekou; four more were noted from the boardwalk trail through the Yellow Birch scrub at the Silver Sands in the late morning while the final eight birds were in scrub on the edge of Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Taiga Flycatcher	6 in the Mantuo Shan – Mantuo Bay – Silver Sands area at the southern end of Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	250 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 200 of these was near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning while the other 50 were in the Silver Sands area at the southern end of the lake later in the day.
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	39, including three <i>taivana</i> , at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Four of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; another five did the same at Beihekou later in the morning; 15 more were noted from the boardwalk trail through the Yellow Birch scrub at the Silver Sands in the late morning while the final 15 birds were on the edge of Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Grey Wagtail	5 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. The first of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; another bird did the same at Beihekou later in the morning; two more were noted from the boardwalk trail through the Yellow Birch scrub at the Silver Sands in the late morning while the final bird was on the edge of Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
White Wagtail	171, including nine <i>ocularis</i> , at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. The first 91 of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; another ten did the same at Beihekou later in the morning; 20 more were noted from the boardwalk trail at the Silver Sands in the late morning while the final 50 were on the edge of Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Richard's Pipit	13 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. The first two of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; another five did the same at Beihekou later in the morning; three more were noted from the boardwalk trail at the Silver Sands in the late morning while the final three birds were on the edge of Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Blyth's Pipit	1 flew over the boardwalk trail at the Silver Sands at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
Olive-backed Pipit	37 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. The first seven of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; another 20 birds did the same at Beihekou later in the morning; five more were noted from the boardwalk trail at the Silver Sands in the late morning while the final five birds were on the edge of Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Pechora Pipit	1 flew over the boardwalk trail at the Silver Sands at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
Red-throated Pipit	36 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. The first two of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; another 15 birds did the same at Beihekou later in the morning; 16 more were noted from the boardwalk trail at the Silver Sands in the late morning while the final three birds were on the edge of Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
Buff-bellied Pipit	2 flew southwest over Mantuo Bay at the southern end of Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
Brambling	1 flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
Common Rosefinch	8 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. The first five of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; another two birds did the same at Beihekou later in the morning while one more was noted from the boardwalk trail at the Silver Sands in the late morning.
Pine Bunting	1 flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
Meadow Bunting	1 on Mantuo Shan, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
Little Bunting	460 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. The first 47 of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; an impressive 400 birds did the same at Beihekou later in the morning; eight more were noted from the boardwalk trail at the Silver Sands in the late morning & five more were in the Mantuo Shan – Mantuo Bay area in the late afternoon.
Black-faced Bunting	1 on the boardwalk trail at the Silver Sands at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
Pallas's Bunting	2 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
bunting sp.	320 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. The first 20 of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning while an impressive 300 more birds did the same at Beihekou later in the morning.

Mammals, reptiles & amphibians

Siberian Chipmunk	1 on the boardwalk trail at the Silver Sands at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
Red Fox	1 in Mantuo Bay, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.

Saturday 18 September 2010. All day Dali Nur NNR, Nei Mongol.

I spent about 50 minutes around the hotel in the early morning & most of us left there at 06h10 & drove, non-stop, back to Beihekou, the first site that we had visited the previous day. We spent almost two hours there before returning to the hotel for breakfast at 08h15. After breakfast we headed out again returning to Liyupao at the southern end of the reserve. In the later afternoon we visited Zhenzi Shan after which I spent some time birding close to the hotel again.

1. Dali Nur Hotel & Dalai Gacha village area. (43°24.08'N., 116°40.02'E). 1290 metres. 05h20-06h10, again for a short while from 08h40-09h00 & more time again from 15h35-16h45

Eurasian Spoonbill	59 on the lake shore immediately south of the hotel in the early evening
Common Kestrel	1
Demoiselle Crane	4980 from the car park of the hotel between 05h20-05h50. They were almost all seen well to the northeast of the hotel & were flying away from the lake (where they'd been presumably feeding overnight) & back in to the fields to the north. A similar movement, but apparently on a smaller scale, had occurred every morning that we'd been in the Dali Nur area. Vocal birds were already on the move well before the sun came up & well before they were visible so its highly likely that many, many more than the 4980 birds that I counted were involved.
Common Magpie	2
Eurasian Skylark	7
Barn Swallow	17
Willow Warbler	1
Dusky Warbler	1 was heard
Pallas's Warbler	2

Yellow-browed Warbler	5
White-cheeked Starling	1 was heard
Common Stonechat	26
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	350
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	2
Grey Wagtail	1
White Wagtail	14
Richard's Pipit	3
Olive-backed Pipit	10
Red-throated Pipit	1
Brambling	2 were heard
Common Rosefinch	3 were heard
Little Bunting	12
Black-faced Bunting	1
Pallas's Bunting	2

2. Beihekou (literally 'North River Mouth'. (43°21.94'N., 116°42.12'E). 1290 metres. 06h15-08h10.

We accessed this site from the car park at what's sign posted off the main road as being the 'Wild Birds World'. Parking up in the car park we again walked perhaps 800 metres down an obvious path to view the birds in the bay.

Swan Goose VU	416
Greylag Goose	2
Bar-headed Goose	1
Whooper Swan	4
Common Shelduck	550
Ruddy Shelduck	450
Gadwall	20
Eurasian Wigeon	4
Mallard	620
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	2
Northern Shoveler	1
Northern Pintail	8
Eurasian Teal	85
Common Pochard	230
Common Goldeneye	22
Duck sp.	200
Great Crested Grebe	11
Black-necked Grebe	58
Eurasian Spoonbill	20
Grey Heron	13
Great Cormorant	455
Oriental Honey-buzzard	1
Eastern Marsh Harrier	3
Common Kestrel	1
Common Coot	10
Pied Avocet	3
Northern Lapwing	25
Pacific Golden Plover	26
Grey Plover	3
Pintail or Swinhoe's Snipe	2
Common Snipe	7
'Eastern' Black-tailed Godwit	255
Little Curlew	1 was heard
Eurasian Curlew NT	5
Spotted Redshank	15
Marsh Sandpiper	1
Curlew Sandpiper	9
Black-headed Gull	40
Mongolian Gull	20
Oriental Turtle Dove	3
Asian Short-toed Lark	11
Eurasian Skylark	8
Dusky Warbler	3 were heard
Yellow-browed Warbler	1 was heard
Lanceolated Warbler	1
Eyebrowed Thrush	1 was heard
Siberian Rubythroat	1
Common Stonechat	5
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	4
Grey Wagtail	1
White Wagtail	10
Richard's Pipit	7
Olive-backed Pipit	7
Red-throated Pipit	3
Common Rosefinch	1 was heard
Pine Bunting	1 was heard
Little Bunting	10
Pallas's Bunting	5

3. Liyupao. (43°15.22'N., 116°24.46'E). 1290 metres using my GPS. 10h20-12h40.

Greylag Goose	1
Gadwall	4
Eurasian Wigeon	2
Mallard	12
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	3
Northern Shoveler	2
Eurasian Teal	11
Common Pochard	48
Tufted Duck	4
Common Goldeneye	22
Little Grebe	17
Great Crested Grebe	87
Black-necked Grebe	112
Grey Heron	7
Great Cormorant	1
Black Kite	1
Common Kestrel	2
Amur Falcon	3
Eurasian Hobby	1
Common Coot	85
Demoiselle Crane	[160]
No. adult	70
No. juv.	8
% juv.	11
Northern Lapwing	20
Pacific Golden Plover	1 was heard
Common Snipe	2
Spotted Redshank	7
Common Greenshank	2
Black-headed Gull	110
Little Gull	1
Mongolian Gull	1
Common Tern	8
Common Magpie	15
Daurian Jackdaw	80
Eurasian Skylark	8
Dusky Warbler	2 were heard
Yellow-browed Warbler	1 was heard
Common Stonechat	2
Taiga Flycatcher	2
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	50
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	2
Grey Wagtail	1
White Wagtail	5
Richard's Pipit	1
Olive-backed Pipit	3
Red-throated Pipit	2
Little Bunting	2
Pallas's Bunting	2 were heard

Mammals, reptiles & amphibians

Daurian Ground Squirrel	5
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4. Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain'). (43°25.60'N., 116°39.95'E). 1285 metres. 15h35-16h45.

Steppe Eagle	3 separate immatures flew south in the late afternoon. The second bird was well photographed – by at least Zhu Lei & Yang Ye.
Common Kestrel	1
Demoiselle Crane	40
Northern Lapwing	25
Mongolian Gull	10
Hill Pigeon	1
Oriental Turtle Dove	3
Eurasian Skylark	2
Dusky Warbler	2
Pallas's Warbler	3
Yellow-browed Warbler	8
[White's Thrush	1 – Zhu Lei saw one on the top of the scrub covered mountain]
Siberian Rubythroat	1
Common Stonechat	9
Blue Rock Thrush	1 female or immature.
Taiga Flycatcher	3
White Wagtail	2
Richard's Pipit	2
Olive-backed Pipit	9
Red-throated Pipit	1
Common Rosefinch	6

Little Bunting	15
Yellow-browed Bunting	1.

Ornithological features of the day

The most notable feature were the large numbers of Demoiselle Cranes in the area though whether there were actually more birds present, or whether they were just particularly active & conspicuous because of the gorgeous weather is debatable. Other goodies included a first-winter Little Gull on Liyupao, three Steppe Eagles that flew south over Zhenzi Shan where there was also a Yellow-browed Bunting. Best of all however was a well photographed Willow Warbler close to the hotel late in the day.

Other observers saw the following species –

5000 Demoiselle Cranes (Yang Ye et al.) – at Gong Ga Shan
Arctic Warbler (Zhao Chao)

Weather

It was 8°C outside the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha at 05h45 but it was clear, largely cloudless day & the temperature rose quickly. The day's maximum was 26°C at Zhenzi Shan in the late afternoon.

Swan Goose	VU	416 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
Greylag Goose		3 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. Two of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while the other bird was on Liyupao later in the day.
Bar-headed Goose		1 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
Whooper Swan		4 adults at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. The fact that all of our sightings at Dali Nur were of adults possibly suggest that the birds present in mid-September were either failed or non-breeders and that those that have bred successfully will not arrive until later in the autumn.
Common Shelduck		550 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
Ruddy Shelduck		450 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
Gadwall		24 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 20 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while the other four birds were on Liyupao later in the day.
Eurasian Wigeon		6 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. Four of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while the other two were on Liyupao later in the day.
Mallard		632 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 620 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while the other 12 were on Liyupao later in the day.
Chinese Spot-billed Duck		5 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. Two of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while the other three were on Liyupao later in the day.
Northern Shoveler		3 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. One of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while the other two were on Liyupao later in the day.
Northern Pintail		8 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
Eurasian Teal		96 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 85 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while the other 11 were on Liyupao later in the day.
Common Pochard		278 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 230 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while the other 48 were on Liyupao later in the day.
Tufted Duck		4 on Liyupao, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
Common Goldeneye		44 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 22 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while exactly the same number were on Liyupao later in the day.
Duck sp.		200 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
Little Grebe		17 on Liyupao, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
Great Crested Grebe		98 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 11 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while 87 were on Liyupao later in the day.
Black-necked Grebe		170 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 58 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while 112 were on Liyupao later in the day.
Eurasian Spoonbill		79 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 20 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while 59 were on the northern shore of the lake when viewed from near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early evening.
Grey Heron		20 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 13 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while the other seven were on Liyupao later in the day.
Great Cormorant		456 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 455 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while just one was on Liyupao later in the day.
Oriental Honey-buzzard		1 flew south at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
Black Kite		1 at Liyupao, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
Eastern Marsh Harrier		3 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
Steppe Eagle		3 separate immatures flew south over Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') at Dali Nur NNR in the late afternoon of the 18/9/2010. Two flew south at 15h45 while the third bird did the same at 16h35. The second bird, an apparent second calendar year, was well photographed – by at least Zhu Lei & Yang Ye.
Common Kestrel		5 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. One of these was near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; another was at Beihekou in the early morning; two more were at Liyupao & the fifth & final bird was near Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') in the late afternoon.
Amur Falcon		3 flew south over Liyupao, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
Eurasian Hobby		1 flew south over Liyupao, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
Common Coot		95 on Liyupao, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
Demoiselle Crane		4980 from the car park of the hotel between 05h20-05h50. They were almost all seen well to the northeast of the hotel & were flying away from the lake (where they'd been presumably feeding overnight) & back in to the fields to the north. A similar movement, but apparently on a smaller scale, had occurred every morning that we'd been in the Dali Nur area. Vocal birds were already on the move well before the sun came up & well before they were visible so its highly likely that many, many more than the 4980 birds that I counted were involved. Interestingly passage ceased just before official sunrise (05h54). Later in the day we encountered a flock of about 170 birds feeding in fields about six,

	or seven kilometers to the west of the hotel. I was able to age 78 of these – this produced 70 adults (89%) & just eight juveniles (11%).
Pied Avocet	3 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
Northern Lapwing	70 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 25 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning; 20 more were at Liyupao & the remaining 25 birds were near Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') in the late afternoon.
Pacific Golden Plover	27 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 26 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while just one was flew over Liyupao later in the day.
Grey Plover	3 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
Pintail or Swinhoe's Snipe	2 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
Common Snipe	9 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. Seven of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while the other two were at Liyupao later in the day.
'Eastern' Black-tailed Godwit	255 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
Little Curlew	1 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
Eurasian Curlew NT	5 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
Spotted Redshank	22 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 15 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while the other seven were at Liyupao later in the day.
Marsh Sandpiper	1 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
Common Greenshank	2 at Liyupao, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
Curlew Sandpiper	9 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
Black-headed Gull	150 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 40 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while the other 140 were at Liyupao later in the day.
Little Gull	1 first-winter was seen well at Liyupao, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
Mongolian Gull	31 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 20 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning; one more was on Liyupao while the remaining ten were seen from Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') later in the day.
Common Tern	8 at Liyupao, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
Hill Pigeon	1 at Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain'), Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
Oriental Turtle Dove	6 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. three of these flew over us at Beihekou in the early morning while the other three were at Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') later in the day.
Common Magpie	17 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. Two of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while the other 15 were on Liyupao later in the day.
Daurian Jackdaw	80 in a single flock at Liyupao, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
Asian Short-toed Lark	11 flew south at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
Eurasian Skylark	25 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. Seven of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning, another eight were at Beihekou in the early morning; another eight were at Liyupao while the final two were near Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') later in the day.
Barn Swallow	17 near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 18/9/2010.
Willow Warbler	1 near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early evening of the 18/9/2010. It was watched, on-and-off, for about one hour in light scrub lining the road between the hotel & the shore of Dali Nur. Found at 17h15 while I was birding on my own in the early evening I managed to phone Zhao Chao who contacted his boss, & skilled photographer, Zhang Shuqing. ZS was already back in the hotel & only a few hundred metres away, he arrived quickly & rapidly obtained some excellent images of the bird. Zhao Chao arrived about 15 minutes later & also saw & photographed it. This is apparently the first record of Willow Warbler from Nei Mongol & possibly only the second record for the whole of China!
Dusky Warbler	8 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. One of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning, another three were in the longer grass at Beihekou in the early morning; two more were at Liyupao while the remaining two were near Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') later in the day.
Pallas's Warbler	5 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. Two of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning while the other three were near Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') later in the day.
Yellow-browed Warbler	15 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. Five of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning, another was at Beihekou in the early morning; yet another was at Liyupao while the remaining eight were near Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') later in the day.
Lanceolated Warbler	1 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
White-cheeked Starling	1 near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 18/9/2010.
Eyebrowed Thrush	1 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
Siberian Rubythroat	2 separate first-winter males were at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. The first was at Beihekou & the second Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain').
Common Stonechat	42 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 26 of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning, another five were at Beihekou in the early morning; two more were at Liyupao while the remaining nine were near Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') later in the day.
Blue Rock Thrush	1 at Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain'), Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
Taiga Flycatcher	5 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. Two of these were at Liyupao while the other three were near Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain').
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	400 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 350 of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha & the other 50 were at Liyupao.
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	8 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. Two of these were flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning, another four did the same at Beihekou also in the early morning while two more were at Liyupao.
Grey Wagtail	3 singles at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. One flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning, another did the same at Beihekou also in the early morning while the third & final bird was at Liyupao.
White Wagtail	31 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 14 of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning, another ten did the same at Beihekou also in the early morning; five more were at Liyupao while the final two were near Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') later in the day.
Richard's Pipit	13 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. Three of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning, another seven did the same at Beihekou also in the early morning; one was at Liyupao while the final two were near Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') later in the day.
Olive-backed Pipit	29 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. Ten of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning, another seven did the same at Beihekou also in the early morning; three more were at Liyupao while the remaining nine were near Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') later in the day.

Red-throated Pipit	7 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. One of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning, another three did the same at Beihekou also in the early morning; two more were at Liyupao while the last bird was near Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') later in the day.
Brambling	2 flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning of the 18/9/2010.
Common Rosefinch	10 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. Three of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning, another did the same at Beihekou also in the early morning while six others were on near Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') later in the day.
Pine Bunting	1 flew south at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
Little Bunting	39 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 12 of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning, another ten did the same at Beihekou also in the early morning; two more were at Liyupao while the last 15 were at Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') later in the day.
Yellow-browed Bunting	1 on Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain'), Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
Black-faced Bunting	1 near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning of the 18/9/2010.
Pallas's Bunting	9 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. Two of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning, another five did the same at Beihekou also in the early morning while two others were at Liyupao.

Mammals, reptiles & amphibians

Daurian Ground Squirrel	5 between the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha & Liyupao on the 18/9/2010.
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Sunday 19 September 2010. All day Dali Nur NNR, Nei Mongol.

I spent 40 minutes around the hotel in the early morning as most of us headed off at 05h30 to drive to the Demoiselle Crane site that some of the group had visited the previous afternoon. Returning for breakfast at 07h30 it was then our turn to do the lengthy trek along the southern shore of Dali Nur.

1. Dali Nur Hotel & Dalai Gacha village area. (43°24.08'N., 116°40.02'E). 1290 metres. 04h50-05h30.

Demoiselle Crane	1500
Little Owl	1 was heard
Chinese Grey Shrike	1
Common Magpie	4
Asian Short-toed Lark	1 was heard
Eurasian Skylark	6
Barn Swallow	9
Dusky Warbler	2
Yellow-browed Warbler	1 was heard
Thrush sp.	1 was heard
Common Stonechat	2
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	350
Olive-backed Pipit	4
Pine Bunting	1 was heard
Little Bunting	1 was heard

2. 'Crane Fields' at Ga Song Shan (43°30.19'N., 116°49.04'E). 06h00-06h45.

This site is about 16.6 kms northeast of the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha & is between a 20-30 minute drive from. It is accessed by driving north through the village right up to the T-junction with route G303. We turned right here & drove another four or five kilometres before turning off at about kilometre post 1131 on to a reasonable dirt track that paralleled a very distinctive, old section of the Great Wall. We headed towards the base of the large hill at the far end of the 'Wall' – this was Ga Song Shan. There's a tall radio mast surrounded by a low wall on the summit. The cranes were in the fields in the shallow valley immediately to the west but quite a few birds were still arriving, even at close to 07h00, & it's probably better to count them here in the early evening.

After birding at Ga Song Shan we drove back to the hotel, arrived at 07h20, had breakfast ten minutes later & left again at 08h00 to drive to the southern end of the lake. We drove to near the Silver Sands Tourist Complex and then spent much of the rest of the day trekking east to west along the southern shore of Dali Nur.

Swan Goose	VU	11
Upland Buzzard		1
Demoiselle Crane		2940
Common Magpie		2
Eurasian Skylark		2
Olive-backed Pipit		2 were heard
Red-throated Pipit		2 were heard

3. Trek along the southern shore of Dali Nur. (43°14.77'N., 116°42.78'E to 43°12.97'N., 116°33.25'E). 08h54-16h40

Leaving the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha at 08h00 we drove to near the entrance to the 'Blue Lake & Silver Beach Car Park & Tourist Complex'. We started our fairly lengthy walk along through the light Yellow Willow ('Huang Liu') scrub and the lake's southern shore at 08h54 & lasted just over 7.5 hours. Several small springs leak freshwater out of the sand dunes that line the lake's southern shore and this creates an attractive area of marsh and even a small reed bed close to the Silver Beach tourist complex. For the second day running a light aircraft, apparently chartered by a CCTV camera crew who were making a documentary film on Dali Nur NNR repeatedly flew low over the lake seemingly deliberately flushing most of the waterbirds. We had a light lunch at Yang Cao – a temporary, tented protection station about half-way along our route. This small camp is manned from mid-April until November by three staff who are here primarily to do night patrols and prevent illegal poaching of the lake's

fish. In all we probably walked between 15-16 kilometres but the birding was rather slow – there were very few waterbirds other than a flock of Eurasian Teal (that fortunately for us also contained five Baikal Teal and two Garganey).

Significantly a construction crew were busy building a road that would run parallel to the route we followed. It was sensibly set back between about 400 & 800 metres from the lake edge and probably won't impact the birds present – but will definitely give easier access to them.

Common Shelduck	50
Ruddy Shelduck	300
Gadwall	1
Eurasian Wigeon	2
Mallard	40
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	5
Northern Shoveler	1
Garganey	2
Baikal Teal VU	5
Eurasian Teal	435
Common Pochard	14
Great Crested Grebe	17
Great Bittern	1
Grey Heron	11
Great Cormorant	170
Eastern Marsh Harrier	5
Pied Harrier	1
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	2
Common Kestrel	2
Eurasian Hobby	2
Saker Falcon EN	1
Northern Lapwing	41
Pintail or Swinhoe's Snipe	2
Common Snipe	27
'Eastern' Black-tailed Godwit	55
Spotted Redshank	3
Marsh Sandpiper	1
Common Greenshank	2
Green Sandpiper	1
Wood Sandpiper	8
Black-headed Gull	60
Pallas's Gull	1
Mongolian Gull	15
Caspian Tern	43
Oriental Turtle Dove	2
Chinese Grey Shrike	1
Common Magpie	25
Daurian Jackdaw	145
Carrion Crow	3
Willow Tit	3
Japanese Tit	3
Asian Short-toed Lark	12
Eurasian Skylark	11
Dusky Warbler	26
Pallas's Warbler	2
Yellow-browed Warbler	38
Black-browed Reed Warbler	1
Lesser Whitethroat	2
White-cheeked Starling	28
White's Thrush	1
Common Stonechat	1
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	200
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	11
Grey Wagtail	1
White Wagtail	23
Richard's Pipit	4
Blyth's Pipit	1
Olive-backed Pipit	5
Red-throated Pipit	4
Buff-bellied Pipit	1
Long-tailed Rosefinch	1
Meadow Bunting	1 was heard
Chestnut-eared Bunting	1
Little Bunting	27
Black-faced Bunting	1
Pallas's Bunting	5
Reed Bunting	1

Mammals, reptiles & amphibians

Red Fox	1
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Ornithological features of the day

I encountered a surprising number of species for the first time today – with the best of these being Baikal Teal, Pied Harrier, Saker Falcon, The most notable feature of the day however were the large numbers of Demoiselle Cranes in the area though whether there were actually more birds present than previously, or whether they were just particularly active & conspicuous because of the gorgeous weather is debatable.

Weather

A gorgeous day – immaculately clear & windless first thing in the morning, it clouded over briefly at about 07h30 but was again superbly clear from 08h30 for the rest of the day. It was 8°C outside the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha at 05h15 & already 22°C at 09h00 when we started our trek near the Silver Beach.

Swan Goose VU	11 at Dali Nur NNR on the 19/9/2010. They were in the same fields as the Demoiselle Cranes near Ga Song Shan.
Common Shelduck	50 around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Ruddy Shelduck	300 around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Gadwall	1 around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Eurasian Wigeon	2 around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Mallard	40 around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	5 around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Northern Shoveler	1 around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Garganey	2 in the teal flock around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Baikal Teal VU	5 in the teal flock around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Eurasian Teal	435 around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Common Pochard	14 around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Great Crested Grebe	17 around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Great Bittern	1 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010. It was in the marsh about one-third of the way from the Silver Sands to the Yang Cao Protection Station.
Grey Heron	11 around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Great Cormorant	170 around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Eastern Marsh Harrier	5 around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Pied Harrier	1 juvenile at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	2 singles flew south at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Upland Buzzard	1 in the fields near Ga Song Shan at Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Common Kestrel	2 singles around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Eurasian Hobby	2 singles around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Saker Falcon EN	1 over the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Demoiselle Crane	2940 at Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010. Birds were seen at two sites with 1500 being counted over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning (all before 05h30) & 2940 in the fields at Ga Song Shan a short while later. Birds were still arriving at that site when we left at 06h45 & its likely that the best time to count birds here is in the early evening just before they start to head off to feed besides the lake edge during the night. Its impossible to know how much duplication there was in today's two counts – perhaps none as the birds over the hotel appeared to be heading further west than Ga Song Shan. However I've been conservative & have gone with the number counted feeding in the fields at Ga Song Shan.
Northern Lapwing	41 around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Pintail or Swinhoe's Snipe	2 singles were flushed by Eastern Marsh Harriers, from the marsh at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Common Snipe	27 in the marsh at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
'Eastern' Black-tailed Godwit	55 in the marsh at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Spotted Redshank	3 in the marsh at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Marsh Sandpiper	1 in the marsh at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Common Greenshank	2 in the marsh at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Green Sandpiper	1 flew over the marsh at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Wood Sandpiper	8 in the marsh at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Black-headed Gull	60 around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Pallas's Gull	1 adult-winter on the beach at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010. It was a different bird, with a more extensive remnant of a summer plumage hood, to the bird seen there on the 14/9/2010.
Mongolian Gull	15 around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Caspian Tern	43, including several juveniles, around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Oriental Turtle Dove	2 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Little Owl	1 near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 19/9/2010.
Chinese Grey Shrike	2 singles in Dali Nur NNR on the 19/9/2010. The first was seen besides the road about two kilometers east of the hotel while the second bird was in the open scrub at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Common Magpie	31 in Dali Nur NNR on the 19/9/2010. Four of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha, another two were seen between there & Gong Ga Shan while the remaining 25 were in the open woodland at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Daurian Jackdaw	145 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010. We encountered a single, a pair & a party of 142 birds.
Carrion Crow	3 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Willow Tit	3, a pair & a separate single, in the open willow scrub around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Japanese Tit	3 in the open willow scrub around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Asian Short-toed Lark	13 in Dali Nur NNR on the 19/9/2010. the first of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha just before dawn while the other 12 were seen around the southern end of the lake later in the day.
Eurasian Skylark	19 in Dali Nur NNR on the 19/9/2010. Six of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha, another two were seen between there & Gong Ga Shan while the remaining 11 were in the open woodland at the southern end of the lake.
Barn Swallow	9 near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 19/9/2010.
Dusky Warbler	28 in Dali Nur NNR on the 19/9/2010. Two of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while the other 26 were in the open woodland at the southern end of the lake.
Pallas's Warbler	2 singles in the open woodland at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

Yellow-browed Warbler	39 in Dali Nur NNR on the 19/9/2010. Just one of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while the other 38 were in the open woodland at the southern end of the lake.
Black-browed Reed Warbler	1 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Lesser Whitethroat	2 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
White-cheeked Starling	28 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
White's Thrush	1 near the Yang Cao Protection Station at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Thrush sp.	1 flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha before dawn on the 19/9/2010.
Common Stonechat	3 in Dali Nur NNR on the 19/9/2010. Two of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while the other was in the open woodland at the southern end of the lake.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	550 in Dali Nur NNR on the 19/9/2010. 350 of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while the other 200 were in the open woodland at the southern end of the lake later in the day.
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	11 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Grey Wagtail	1 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
White Wagtail	23 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Richard's Pipit	4 singles at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Blyth's Pipit	1 flew over the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Olive-backed Pipit	11 in Dali Nur NNR on the 19/9/2010. Four of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha, another two were seen near Gong Ga Shan while the remaining five were in the open woodland at the southern end of the lake.
Red-throated Pipit	6 in Dali Nur NNR on the 19/9/2010. Two of these were near Gong Ga Shan while the other four were in the open woodland at the southern end of the lake later in the day.
Buff-bellied Pipit	1 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Long-tailed Rosefinch	1 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Pine Bunting	1 flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 19/9/2010.
Meadow Bunting	1 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Chestnut-eared Bunting	1 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Little Bunting	28 in Dali Nur NNR on the 19/9/2010. Just one of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha before dawn while the other 27 were at the southern end of the lake later in the day.
Black-faced Bunting	1 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Pallas's Bunting	5 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
Reed Bunting	1 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
<u>Mammals, reptiles & amphibians</u>	
Red Fox	1 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

Monday 20 September 2010. Early morning Dali Nur NNR, afternoon Arshihaty Stone Forest & pm drove to Xilinhot.

I spent one hour birding around the hotel in the early morning but, other than the usual dawn movement of Demoiselle Cranes, it was very quiet with little visible passage. We had breakfast from 06h30 & left Dali Nur NNR together in a large coach at 07h20.

1. Dali Nur Hotel & Dalai Gacha village area. (43°24.08'N., 116°40.02'E). 1290 metres. 05h25-06h25.

Swan Goose	VU	12
Eurasian Sparrowhawk		2
Common Kestrel		2
Demoiselle Crane		1695
Black-headed Gull		1
Mongolian Gull		2
Little Owl		1
Common Magpie		2
Eurasian Skylark		2
Barn Swallow		5
Thrush sp.		1
Eurasian Tree Sparrow		200
Eastern Yellow Wagtail		1
Grey Wagtail		1
White Wagtail		23
Olive-backed Pipit		9
Brambling		6
Common Rosefinch		2
Pine Bunting		1
Little Bunting		5

Leaving the hotel at 07h20 we headed off to a scenic area of woodland that Zhao Chao had visited previously – the Arshihaty Stone Forest – a site that's 91 kilometres in a straight line northeast of the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha & 113 kilometres due east of Xilinhot. The drive took about two hours and took us via Bayanchagan. Leaving the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha we turned left immediately in front of the reserve office and drove past the southern flank of Zhinzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') & on up to the 'Wind Farm junction' with route G303. Turning right here we passed the junction with the small dirt road off to the Demoiselle Crane site at Ga Song Shan at Km post 1131 & continued on through a large settlement with speed cameras (07h45) & after just about five minutes more to a crossroads with a petrol station on the left. There was a large sign over route G303 here indicating that it was 81 kilometres from here to the Qingshan Scenic Spot & 104 kilometres left to the Arshihaty Stone Forest. We turned left on to the smaller road – and we were already at kilometre post 30 on that road. It was about 07h50 when we turned on to this smaller road & 20 minutes later at 08h09 and at Kilometre post 55, we started to pass an attractive looking conifer forest on the

left. We drove through the larger village of Bayanchagan (Km 105) at 08h59 & arrived at the car park and entrance gate to the Arshihaty Stone Forest

2. Arshihaty Stone Forest (43°57.33'N., 117°31.55'E), 09h30-11h30.

This attractive area of rolling hills, white birch forest & bizarre rock outcrops at the southernmost point of the Da Xingan Ling (Da Xingan Mountains) is a busy tourist site. Arriving at 09h25 we parked up in the main car park, Zhao Chao bought our entrance tickets & we all transferred to one of the park's shuttle buses. This took us to three sites about five kilometres further up & in the park though Zhao Chao, Zhu Lei & me just birded at the first of these. It was extremely quiet – no doubt largely due to the time of year. Black-billed Capercaillie apparently occurs in the park (Zhao Chao pers. comm. 20 Sept. 2010).

Demoiselle Crane	70
Grey-capped Pygmy W ^o pecker	1
Olive-backed Pipit	3
Godlewski's Bunting	3

3. Drive from Dali Nur to Arshihaty Stone Forest & from there to Xilinhot

Leaving the Arshihaty Stone Forest at 11h30 we headed almost all the way back to Dali Nur, stopping for lunch south Bayanchagan (Km 105) & at about Km post 57. We reached the 'Wind Farm junction' with the road down to Dali Nur at 13h51 but didn't turn down it & instead continued on route G303 towards Xilinhot. There was a toll booth at Km post 1161 & we arrived at the supposed 4-star Yijiamingshi Holiday Hotel (tel. 86-479-8299999 & fax. 8260022) on Xilin Avenue in downtown Xilinhot city at 15h22. We then had a lengthy break before reconvening for dinner in the ground floor restaurant at 19h30. Birds seen on the drive were -

Black Kite	6
Upland Buzzard	3
Steppe Eagle	4
Amur Falcon	23
Common Magpie	2
Daurian Jackdaw	185
Rook	5
Carrion Crow	20
Corvid sp.	200
Barn Swallow	1
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	100

Xilinhot's a fairly large city and the seat of government for the Xilin Gol district in Nei Mongol. Its jurisdiction covers an area of 14,785 km² and a population of 177,000 with 149,000 being in the Xilinhot urban area. Xilinhot's 610 and 620 kilometres from Beijing and Hohhot, the capital of Nei Mongol, respectively. Xilinhot that has daily flights to Beijing with Air China and daily flights to Hohhot from Shandong Airlines while trains K996/K736 connect Xilinhot with Hohhot and depart daily except Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Weather

It was overcast, windier & 10°C outside the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha at 05h30. It looked threatening but stayed dry, other than a few spots of rain at 08h25, until almost 13h30 when it rained hard for about half-an-hour.

Swan Goose	VU	12 over the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010.
Black Kite		6 singles between Dali Nur, the Arshihaty Stone Forest & Xilinhot on the 20/9/2010. Birds were specifically noted at the following sites – close to the left turning off route G303 104 kilometres south of the Arshihaty Stone Forest; three kilometres north of that site (43°22.94'N., 117°06.26'E); ten kilometres south of Bayanchagan (43°49.41'N., 117°11.86'E);. eight kilometres south of Bayanchagan (43°50.94'N., 117°11.26'E);. 18 kilometres north of Bayanchagan (43°58.58'N., 117°23.39'E);.another near the toll booth 33 kilometres due north of Dali Nur & 54 kilometres southeast of Xilinhot on route G303 (43°41.36'N., 116°38.23'E). (
Eurasian Sparrowhawk		2 flew south over the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010.
Upland Buzzard		3 between Dali Nur NNR & the Arshihaty Stone Forest on the 20/9/2010. The first was at Km 1106 & near the turning off route G303 while the other two were just two kilometers north of Bayanchagan.
Steppe Eagle		4 singles between Dali Nur NNR & the Arshihaty Stone Forest on the 20/9/2010. Birds were specifically noted at the following sites – Km 47 (58 kilometres south of Bayanchagan) on the small road leading to the Arshihaty Stone Forest (43°27.45'N., 117°08.27'E); Km 69 (36 kilometres south of Bayanchagan) on the side road (43°36.88'N., 117°12.36'E); Km 98 (seven kilometres south of Bayanchagan) on the side road (43°52.13'N., 117°11.20'E); another at Km 109 (four kilometres north of Bayanchagan) on the side road;
Common Kestrel		2 near the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010.
Amur Falcon		23 between the Arshihaty Stone Forest & Xilinhot on the 20/9/2010. Most of these (18 birds) were in a 15 kilometre stretch of road south of the conifer forest & about 40 kilometres south of Bayanchagan while another three were right on the edge of Xilinhot.
Demoiselle Crane		1765 on the 20/9/2010. 1695 of these were counted as they flew distantly past the Dali Nur NNR hotel before dawn (& specifically between 05h32-05h44) while the other 70 flew west-south-west over the Arshihaty Stone Forest at 11h20.
Black-headed Gull		1 near the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010.
Mongolian Gull		2 near the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010.
Little Owl		1 near the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010.
Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker		1 in the Arshihaty Stone Forest on the 20/9/2010. (1700 metres)
Common Magpie		4 on the 20/9/2010. Two of these were close to the Dali Nur NNR hotel while the other two were seen between there & the Arshihaty Stone Forest later in the day.
Daurian Jackdaw		185 between Dali Nur & the Arshihaty Stone Forest on the 20/9/2010. 85 of these flew south near the conifer forest 60 kilometres south of Bayanchagan while the other 100 were in a mixed corvid flock 12 kilometres further north.

Rook	5 in a large mixed flock of corvids between Dali Nur & the Arshihaty Stone Forest on the 20/9/2010.
Carrion Crow	20 in a large mixed flock of corvids between Dali Nur & the Arshihaty Stone Forest on the 20/9/2010.
Corvid sp.	200 between Dali Nur & the Arshihaty Stone Forest on the 20/9/2010.
Eurasian Skylark	2 flew south over the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010.
Barn Swallow	6 flew south over the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010.
Thrush sp.	1 flew south over the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	300 on the 20/9/2010. 200 of these were counted as they flew south over the Dali Nur NNR hotel in the early morning while the other 100 were between the Arshihaty Stone Forest & Xilinhot later in the day.
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	1 flew south over the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010.
Grey Wagtail	1 flew south over the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010.
White Wagtail	23 flew south over the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010.
Olive-backed Pipit	12 on the 20/9/2010. Nine of these were counted as they flew south over the Dali Nur NNR hotel in the early morning while the other three were in the Arshihaty Stone Forest.
Brambling	6 flew south over the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010.
Common Rosefinch	2 flew south over the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010.
Pine Bunting	1 flew south over the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010.
Godlewski's Bunting	3 flew south over the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010. (1700 metres)
Little Bunting	5 flew south over the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010.

Tuesday 21 September 2010. Flew Xilinhot back to Beijing

Most of the group had breakfast in the hotel from 07h00, we all left at 07h55 & drove about 25 minutes to Xilinhot airport where we caught the 09h15 Air China flight back to Beijing. The plane took off on time & we arrived back in the Capital after a 58 minutes flight at 10h18. We said our goodbyes & headed home.

BIRD LIST

Figures are given in two sets of parentheses - the first of these details how many days (out of a maximum of seven) that particular species was seen in China. The second figure notes the highest day count & the third the total number of bird-days. Hence the entry for Swan Goose reads (8/9 1257 3219) - birds were noted on eight of the nine days of the trip, with up to 1257 individuals on any one date & with a total of 3219 bird-days.

Taxonomy & nomenclature follows that used in the CBR [China Bird Report] Checklist of Birds of China v1.0.2 (2010) accessed on-line May 2010.

JAPANESE QUAIL *Coturnix japonica* 鹌鹑

(1/9 3 3)

3 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. One of these was at Beihekou while the other two were on the edge of Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.

SWAN GOOSE *Anser cygnoides* VU 鸿雁

(8/9 1257 3219)

This was a fairly easy species to survey & its felt that few were missed. The following maxima were counted at the main sites around the lake – 711 in Mantuo Bay, 86 at Honggou, 112 at Fenghuangzui & 540 at Beihekou. Even allowing for some duplication its likely that there were between 1300-1600 Swan Geese were present on Dali Nur in mid-September 2010 – an impressive number but well short of the figure of 10,000 quoted in BirdLife International (2009). This represents between 1.3 & 2.6% of the estimated world population of between 60,000-100,000 birds (Wetlands International 2006).

63 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. 57 of these were on the lakes southeast of Sanggandalai with 13 on Zhagesitai & 44 on Hao Lu Tu. Elsewhere there were six at the south-western side of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day.

818 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 620 of these were in Mantuo Bay, another 86 were on the lake at Honggou while the remaining 112 were at Fenghuangzui.

354 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.

288 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. 278 of these were at Beihekou & the other ten were at the southern end of Ganggen Nur.

1257 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 540 were at Beihekou in the early morning, another six were on the Silver Sands in the late morning while the day's highest count was of 711 in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.

416 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.

11 at Dali Nur NNR on the 19/9/2010. They were in the same fields as the Demoiselle Cranes near Ga Song Shan.

12 over the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010.

Swan Goose 1300-1600

TUNDRA BEAN GOOSE *Anser serrirostris* 短嘴豆雁

(1/9 15 15)

15 on the north-eastern side of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010. Probably early migrants these were the only bean geese of any form that I saw during my time at Dali Nur.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser* 灰雁

(4/9 14 24)

3 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.

4, two pairs, at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.

14 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Six of these was at Beihekou while the other eight were in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.

3 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. Two of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while the other bird was on Liyupao later in the day.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus* 斑头雁

(3/9 3 6)

3 at Mantuo Bay in the southeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.

2 in Mantuo Bay, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.

1 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.

TUNDRA SWAN *Cygnus columbianus* 小天鹅

(1/9 1 1)

1 on Hao Lu Tu, Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.

WHOOPER SWAN *Cygnus cygnus* 大天鹅

(6/9 12 33)

12 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010.

6 adults at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. One of these was in Mantuo while the other five were at Fenghuangzui.

2 adults at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.

3 adults at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. One of these were at Beihekou & the other two, a pair, were near the protection station at the northwestern end of Ganggen Nur.

6 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Four of these was at Beihekou while the other two were in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.

4 adults at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. The fact that all of our sightings at Dali Nur were of adults possibly suggest that the birds present in mid-September were either failed or non-breeders and that those that have bred successfully will not arrive until later in the autumn.

COMMON SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna* 翘鼻麻鸭

(7/9 1875 4913)

This was an easy species to survey & its felt that few were missed. The following maxima were counted at the main sites around the lake – 840 at Beihekou, 1000 in Mantuo Bay, 200 in the Honggou-Fenghuangzui area. Even allowing for some duplication its likely that there were just over 2000 Common Shelduck were present on Dali Nur in mid-September 2010. This represents only a small fraction of the estimated world population of between 556,000-606,000 birds (Wetlands International 2006).

323 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. The vast majority of these (312 birds) were on the lakes southeast of Sanggandalai with just two on Zhagesitai & the other 310 on Hao Lu Tu. Elsewhere there were six at the south-western side of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day.

660 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 455 of these were in Mantuo Bay, another 70 were on the lake edge at Honggou & the remaining 135 were at Fenghuangzui.

830 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.

625 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.

1875 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 840 were at Beihekou in the early morning, another 35 were on the Silver Sands in the late afternoon while the day's highest count was of 1000 in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.

550 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.

50 around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea* 赤麻鸭

(7/9 1610 6031)

This was a fairly easy species to survey & its felt that few were missed. The following maxima were counted at the main sites around the lake – 455 at Beihekou, 1200 in Mantuo Bay, 850 in the Honggou-Fenghuangzui area & 200 on Ganggen Nur. Even allowing for some duplication its likely that there were over 2700 Ruddy Shelduck were present on Dali Nur in mid-September 2010. This represents between 1.2-1.6% of the estimated world population of between 173,000-223,000 birds (Wetlands International 2006).

1030 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. The majority of these (812 birds) were on the lakes southeast of Sanggandalai with 285 on Zhagesitai & the other 527 on Hao Lu Tu. Elsewhere there were 218 on Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day. 84 of these were on the north-western corner while the other 134 were at the south-western side.

1585 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 20 of these were seen distantly over the lake immediately south of the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha, 725 more were in Mantuo Bay, another 495 were on the lake edge at Honggou & the remaining 345 were at Fenghuangzui.

455 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.

601 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. 405 of these were at Beihekou & 196 on Ganggen Nur with 175 at the southern end & the other ten near the protection station at the northwestern end.

1610 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 385 were at Beihekou in the early morning, another 25 were on the Silver Sands in the late morning while the day's highest count was of 1200 in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.

450 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.

300 around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata* 鸳鸯

(1/9 4 4)

4 in Mantuo Bay, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.

GADWALL *Anas strepera* 赤膀鸭

(7/9 295 823)

Uncommon on Dali Nur in mid-September 2010. The following maxima were counted at the main sites around the lake – 155 at Beihekou, 140 in Mantuo Bay & 50 on Ganggen Nur. Even allowing for some duplication its likely that there were perhaps not more than 400 Gadwall present on the lake.

278 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. The majority of these (213 birds) were on the lakes southeast of Sanggandalai with eight on Zhagesitai & the other 205 on Hao Lu Tu. Elsewhere there were 65 on Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day. 20 of these were on the north-western corner while the other 40 were at the south-western side.

35 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 20 of these were in Mantuo Bay, eight were on Liyupao & remaining seven were on the lake at Honggou.

140 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.

50 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. 22 of these were at Beihekou & 38 on Ganggen Nur with 21 at the southern end & the other seven near the protection station at the northwestern end.

295 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 155 of these was at Beihekou while the other 140 were in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.

24 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 20 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while the other four birds were on Liyupao later in the day.

1 around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

FALCATED DUCK *Anas falcata* 罗纹鸭

(1/9 255 255)

Uncommon on Dali Nur in mid-September 2010 the count below is probably a fairly accurate assessment of exactly how many Falcated Ducks were present – 250-300.

255 in Mantuo Bay, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.

EURASIAN WIGEON *Anas penelope* 赤颈鸭

(7/9 46 104)

Uncommon on Dali Nur in mid-September 2010 with probably between 100-150 birds present.

2 on Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.

46 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 10 of these were in Mantuo Bay, 24 were on Liyupao, seven were on the lake at Honggou & the remaining five were at Fenghuangzui.

3 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.

5 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Two of these were at Beihekou & the other three were near the protection station at the northwestern end of Ganggen Nur.

40 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 15 of these was at Beihekou while the other 25 were in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.

6 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. Four of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while the other two were on Liyupao later in the day.

2 around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* 绿头鸭

(7/9 2570 7682)

This was not an easy species to survey & its felt that many were missed – especially in the large concentration of tightly packed, distant ducks in Mantuo Bay. Nevertheless the following maxima were counted at the main sites around the lake – 1500 at Beihekou, 1000 in Mantuo Bay, 2000 in the Honggou-Fenghuangzui area & 500 on Ganggen Nur. Even allowing for some duplication its likely that there were perhaps between 5000-6000 Mallard present on Dali Nur in mid-September 2010.

1265 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. 800 of these were on the lakes southeast of Sanggandalai with 250 on Zhagesitai & the other 550 on Hao Lu Tu. Elsewhere there were 465 on Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day. 310 of these were on the north-western corner while the other 155 were at the southwestern side.

2550 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 780 of these were in Mantuo Bay, 950 were on the lake at Honggou & the remaining 820 were at Fenghuangzui.

460 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.

165 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. 110 of these were at Beihekou & 55 on Ganggen Nur with 35 at the southern end & the other 20 near the protection station at the northwestern end.

2570 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. The day's highest count was of 1555 were at Beihekou in the early morning, another 15 were on the Silver Sands in the late morning while 1000 were in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.

632 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 620 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while the other 12 were on Liyupao later in the day.

40 around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

CHINESE SPOT-BILLED DUCK *Anas zonorhyncha* 斑嘴鸭

(6/9 39 86)

15 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. Just one of these was on Zhagesitai, southeast of Sanggandalai while the other 14 were on Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day. One of the latter was at the north-western corner of the lake, another two on the north-eastern corner & the remaining 11 were at the southwestern side.

13 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. Ten of these were in Mantuo Bay & the other three were on the lake edge at Honggou.

39 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Eight of these were at Beihekou & the other 21 were at the southern end of Ganggen Nur.

9 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Just one of these was at Beihekou while the other eight were in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.

5 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. Two of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while the other three were on Liyupao later in the day.

5 around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

NORTHERN SHOVELER *Anas clypeata* 琵嘴鸭

(7/9 19 37)

1 on Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.

7 on the lake edge at Honggou, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.

2 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.

4 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.

19 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Just four of these were at Beihekou while the other 15 were in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.

3 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. One of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while the other two were on Liyupao later in the day.

1 around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

NORTHERN PINTAIL *Anas acuta* 针尾鸭

(6/9 21 58)

2 at the north-eastern side of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010.

17 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. Five of these were in Mantuo Bay, seven were on the lake at Honggou & the remaining five were at Fenghuangzui.

4 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
6 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Three of these were at both Beihekou & the southern end of Ganggen Nur.
21 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 11 of these were at Beihekou while the other ten were in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
8 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula* 白眉鸭

(4/9 15 22)

4 at Guanhu zhan at the north-western side of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010.
1 on Liyupao, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.
15 near the protection station at the northwestern end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.
2 in the teal flock around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

BAIKAL TEAL *Anas formosa* VU 花脸鸭

(1/9 5 5)

5 in the teal flock around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

EURASIAN TEAL *Anas crecca* 绿翅鸭

(7/9 1205 2677)

Fairly common on Dali Nur in mid-September 2010. The following maxima were counted at the main sites around the lake – 95 at Beihekou, 140 in Mantuo Bay, 50 in the Honggou-Fenghuangzui area, 1110 on Ganggen Nur & 435 around the lake's southern shore. Even allowing for some duplication its likely that there were perhaps less than 2000 Eurasian Teal present on the lake.
570 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. 320 of these were on Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai while elsewhere there were 250 on Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day. 210 of the latter were near Guanhu zhan at the north-western side of the lake while the other 40 were at the south-western corner.
75 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 20 of these were in Mantuo Bay, 20 more were on the lake at Honggou & the remaining 35 were at Fenghuangzui.
65 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
1205 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. 95 of these were at Beihekou & 1110 on Ganggen Nur with 1005 at the southern end & the other 105 near the protection station at the northwestern end.
231 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 85 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning, another six were on the Silver Sands in the late morning while 140 were in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
96 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 85 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while the other 11 were on Liyupao later in the day.
435 around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

COMMON POCHARD *Aythya ferina* 红头潜鸭

(7/9 1990 4086)

Fairly common at Dali Nur in mid-September 2010. The following maxima were counted at the main sites around the lake – 230 at Beihekou, 540 in Mantuo Bay, 1560 in the Honggou-Fenghuangzui area, 50 on Ganggen Nur & another 50 at Liyupao. Even allowing for some duplication its likely that there were perhaps between 2250-2500 Common Pochard present on Dali Nur in mid-September 2010.
726 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. The vast majority of these (673 birds) were on the lakes southeast of Sanggandalai with 258 on Zhagesitai & the other 451 on Hao Lu Tu. Elsewhere there were 53 on Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day - 53 of the latter were at Guanhu zhan on the north-western corner while the other eight were at the southwestern side.
1990 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 410 of these were in Mantuo Bay, 20 were on Liyupao, 735 were on the lake at Honggou & the remaining 825 were at Fenghuangzui.
105 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
188 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. 135 of these were at Beihekou & 53 on Ganggen Nur with 28 at the southern end & the other 25 near the protection station at the northwestern end.
785 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 215 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning, another 30 were on the Silver Sands in the late morning while the day's highest count was of 540 in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
278 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 230 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while the other 48 were on Liyupao later in the day.
14 around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

FERRUGINOUS POCHARD *Aythya nyroca* NT 白眼潜鸭

(1/9 2 2)

2 at Guanhu zhan at the north-western side of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula* 凤头潜鸭

(5/9 12 26)

12 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. Nine of these were on the lakes southeast of Sanggandalai with just one on Zhagesitai & the other eight on Hao Lu Tu. Elsewhere there were just three at Guanhu zhan on the north-western corner of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day.
7 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. Two of these were in Mantuo Bay & the other five on the lake edge at Honggou.
2 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
1 near the protection station at the northwestern end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.

4 on Liyupao, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.

COMMON GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula* 鹊鸭

(6/9 625 710)

625 on the lakes southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010. 410 of these were on Zhagesitai & the other 215 on Hao Lu Tu.

28 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. Three of these were on Liyupao, 15 others were on the lake at Honggou & the remaining ten were at Fenghuangzui.

3 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.

5 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.

5 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.

44 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 22 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while exactly the same number were on Liyupao later in the day.

SMEW *Mergellus albellus* 白秋沙鸭

(3/9 3 3)

3 on Zhagesitai, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.

DUCK SP.

(6/9 6900 10620)

700 at the north-eastern side of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010.

2000 distant ducks were in Mantuo Bay at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.

350 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.

440 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. About 300 of these were at Beihekou & 140 on Ganggen Nur with 100 at the southern end & the other 40 near the protection station at the northwestern end.

6900 unidentified ducks were seen at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 250 of these were in Beihekou in the early morning while the vast majority, 6650 birds, were in Mantuo Bay in the later afternoon. The latter figure was arrived at in the following manner. From the top of Mantuo Shan I counted about 11,100 waterfowl, other than Swan Geese, in Mantuo Bay. When we descended to the edge of the Bay itself we were able to distinguish quite a few of these and identified 4350 to species leaving 6650 unidentified ducks.

200 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* 小鸊鷉

(4/9 17 49)

14 on Zhagesitai, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.

14 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 11 of these were on Liyupao while the other three were on the lake at Honggou.

4 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.

17 on Liyupao, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena* 赤颈鸊鷉

(1/9 2 2)

2, an adult & an attendant almost certainly locally fledged juvenile, at the south-western end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus* 凤头鸊鷉

(7/9 354 742)

354 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. Just 65 of these were on the lakes southeast of Sanggandalai with 54 on Zhagesitai & the other 11 on Hao Lu Tu. Elsewhere there were 289 on Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day with 27 at Guanhu zhan at north-western side & the other 262 at the south-western end.

200 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 35 of these were in Mantuo Bay, 103 were on Liyupao, 47 were on the lake at Honggou & the remaining 15 were at Fenghuangzui.

3 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.

45 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Eight of these were at Beihekou & 37 on Ganggen Nur with 15 at the southern end & the other 22 near the protection station at the northwestern end.

25 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Just one of these were at Beihekou in the early morning, another was on the lake just off the Silver Sands in the late morning while the day's highest count was of 23 in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.

98 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 11 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while 87 were on Liyupao later in the day.

17 around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis* 黑颈鸊鷉

(6/9 508 1238)

508 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. Almost all of these (506 birds) were on the lakes southeast of Sanggandalai with 457 on Zhagesitai & the other 49 on Hao Lu Tu. Elsewhere there were just two at Guanhu zhan at north-western side of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day.

87 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 67 of these were on Liyupao, 17 were on the lake at Honggou & the remaining three were at Fenghuangzui.

239 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.

159 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR in the afternoon of the 16/9/2010.

75 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.

170 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 58 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while 112 were on Liyupao later in the day.

EURASIAN SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia* 白琵鹭

(5/9 83 229)

38 on Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010. 11 of these were at Guanhu zhan at north-western side of the lake while the other 27 were at the south-western end.

13 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.

83 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. 19 of these were at Beihekou & 62 on Ganggen Nur with 35 at the southern end & the other 27 near the protection station at the northwestern end.

16 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.

79 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 20 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while 59 were on the northern shore of the lake when viewed from near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early evening.

GREAT BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris* 大麻鳉

(1/9 1 1)

1 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010. It was in the marsh about one-third of the way from the Silver Sands to the Yang Cao Protection Station.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* 苍鹭

(7/9 91 289)

69 on Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010. 27 of these were at Guanhu zhan at north-western side of the lake while the other 42 were at the south-western end.

91 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 31 of these were in Mantuo Bay, 21 were on Liyupao, 17 were on the lake at Honggou & the remaining 38 were at Fenghuangzui.

5 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.

57 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. 26 of these were at Beihekou & 31 on Ganggen Nur with 24 at the southern end & the other seven near the protection station at the northwestern end.

36 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Eight of these were at Beihekou in the early morning, another five were on the lake at the Silver Sands in the late morning while the day's highest count was of 23 in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.

20 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 13 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while the other seven were on Liyupao later in the day.

11 around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea* 草鹭

(1/9 1 1)

1 at the south-western end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010.

GREAT CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo* 普通鸬鹚

(7/9 790 2664)

445 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. Just 32 of these were near Sanggendalai with all of these being on Hao Lu Tu. Elsewhere there were 413 on Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day. 275 of these were at Guanhu zhan at north-western side of the lake while the other 138 were at the south-western end.

353 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 205 of these were seen distantly over the lake near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha, 55 more were in Mantuo Bay, just one was on Liyupao, 54 were on the lake at Honggou & the remaining 22 were at Fenghuangzui.

55 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.

395 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. 245 of these were at Beihekou & 152 on Ganggen Nur with 35 at the southern end & the other 117 near the protection station at the northwestern end.

790 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 55 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning, another 55 were on the lake at the Silver Sands in the late morning while by far the day's highest count was of 680 in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.

456 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 455 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while just one was on Liyupao later in the day.

170 around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* 鵟

(1/9 1 1)

1 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR in the afternoon of the 16/9/2010.

ORIENTAL HONEY-BUZZARD *Pernis ptilorhynchus* 凤头蜂鹰

(2/9 2 3)

2 flew south over the Silver Sands Tourist complex at Dali Nur NNR in the late morning of the 17/9/2010.

1 flew south at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans lineatus* 黑鸢

(5/9 4 10)

1 juvenile at Km post 27 on the road between Hui Tanghe cun & the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 13/9/2010. (1360 metres)
4 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.
4 together near the southern end of Ganggen Nur at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.
1 at Liyupao, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
6 singles between Dali Nur, the Arshihaty Stone Forest & Xilinhot on the 20/9/2010. Birds were specifically noted at the following sites – close to the left turning off route G303 104 kilometres south of the Arshihaty Stone Forest; three kilometres north of that site (43°22.94'N., 117°06.26'E); ten kilometres south of Bayanchagan (43°49.41'N., 117°11.86'E);. eight kilometres south of Bayanchagan (43°50.94'N., 117°11.26'E);. 18 kilometres north of Bayanchagan (43°58.58'N., 117°23.39'E);. another near the toll booth 33 kilometres due north of Dali Nur & 54 kilometres southeast of Xilinhot on route G303 (43°41.36'N., 116°38.23'E). (

PALLAS'S FISH EAGLE *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* VU 玉带海雕

(1/9 1 1)

1 juvenile at Zhagesitai, southeast of Sanggendalai on the 13/9/2010.

EASTERN MARSH HARRIER *Circus spilonotus* 白腹鹞

(7/9 7 29)

3 around Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010. One of these was at the north-eastern side of the lake while the other two were at the south-western end.
4 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. They were all in the Silver Beach/Mantuo Bay area & involved one adult male, one adult female & two different juveniles.
2 cream-crowns at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
7 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Three of these, including one adult male, were at Beihekou & four more were around on Ganggen Nur with three at the southern end & the fourth bird near the protection station at the northwestern end
5 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Four of these were near the Silver Sands in the late morning the other was in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
3 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
5 around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

PIED HARRIER *Circus melanoleucos* 鹊鹞

(1/9 1 1)

1 juvenile at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus* 雀鹰

(7/9 2 7)

2 flew south over Mantuo Bay at Dali Nur NNR in the late afternoon of the 17/9/2010.
2 singles flew south at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
2 flew south over the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010.

ACCIPITER SP.

4 flew south in the Silver Sands – Mantuo Bay – Mantuo Shan area at the southern end of Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.

UPLAND BUZZARD *Buteo hemilasius* 大鵟

(6/9 2 6)

1 at the north-eastern end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010.
2 singles at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. The first was in the fields near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while the second was on the edge of Mantuo Bay.
1 near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 16/9/2010.
1 near Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
1 in the fields near Ga Song Shan at Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
3 between Dali Nur NNR & the Arshihaty Stone Forest on the 20/9/2010. The first was at Km 1106 & near the turning off route G303 while the other two were just two kilometres north of Bayanchagan.

STEPPE EAGLE *Aquila nipalensis* 草原雕

(3/9 3 4)

1 adult over Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain'), Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
3 separate immatures flew south over Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') at Dali Nur NNR in the late afternoon of the 18/9/2010. Two flew south at 15h45 while the third bird did the same at 16h35. The second bird, an apparent second calendar year, was well photographed – by at least Zhu Lei & Yang Ye.
4 singles between Dali Nur NNR & the Arshihaty Stone Forest on the 20/9/2010. Birds were specifically noted at the following sites – Km 47 (58 kilometres south of Bayanchagan) on the small road leading to the Arshihaty Stone Forest (43°27.45'N., 117°08.27'E); Km 69 (36 kilometres south of Bayanchagan) on the side road (43°36.88'N., 117°12.36'E); Km 98 (seven kilometres south of Bayanchagan) on the side road (43°52.13'N., 117°11.20'E); another at Km 109 (four kilometres north of Bayanchagan) on the side road;

COMMON KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus* 红隼

(8/9 6 30)

- 3 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. One of these was seen between Sanggandalai & Zhagesitai in the early morning while the other two were at the south-western end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR.
- 6 singles at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. Two of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha, two more were on Mantuo Shan while singles were at both Honggou & Fenghuangzui.
- 2 singles in Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010. The first was at Beihekou while the second was close to the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha.
- 5 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Four of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha & the other bird was at Beihekou in the mid-afternoon.
- 5 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Two of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; another was at Beihekou in the early morning while two were in the Mantuo Shan - Mantuo Bay area in the late afternoon
- 5 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. One of these was near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; another was at Beihekou in the early morning; two more were at Liyupao & the fifth & final bird was near Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') in the late afternoon.
- 2 singles around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
- 2 near the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010.

AMUR FALCON *Falco amurensis* 红脚隼

(8/9 7 23)

- 35 besides route S207 between the Hebei border & Sanggandalai on the 12/9/2010. The first Nei Mongol bird was just ten minutes drive inside the border, while the second was just seven minutes north of Baocheng & 37 minutes inside the provincial border; while another 31 birds were seen besides a three kilometre stretch of road between kilometre posts 194-192 (between 11 & 14 kilometres north of the Hebei-Nei Mongol border near Baocheng. In addition two other birds were seen near Chabei, extreme northern Zhangjiakou, in Hebei. (1330, 1390 [31 birds] & 1430 metres)
- 7 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. One of these was seen between Sanggandalai & Zhagesitai in the early morning while the other six were near Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day. One of the latter was at the north-eastern side of the lake while the other five were at the south-western end.
- 3 over Mantuo Shan at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.
- 5 in Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010. The first three birds were between Beihekou & the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while the other two were between the hotel and the lake edge later in the morning.
- 2 singles at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. The first was near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while the other bird was close to the southern end of Ganggen Nur.
- 3 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Two of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning while the other was over Mantuo Shan in the mid-afternoon.
- 3 flew south over Liyupao, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
- 23 between the Arshihaty Stone Forest & Xilinhot on the 20/9/2010. Most of these (18 birds) were in a 15 kilometre stretch of road south of the conifer forest & about 40 kilometres south of Bayanchagan while another three were right on the edge of Xilinhot.

EURASIAN HOBBY *Falco subbuteo* 燕隼

(10/9 3 10)

- 1 juvenile between Sanggandalai & Zhagesitai early on the 13/9/2010.
- 1 flew south at Mantuo Bay, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.
- 1 flew purposefully south at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
- 1 flew over the southern end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.
- 3 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. One of these flew south at Beihekou in the early morning while the other was over Mantuo Shan in the mid-afternoon.
- 1 flew south over Liyupao, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.
- 2 singles around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

SAKER FALCON *Falco cherrug* EN 猎隼

(3/9 2 3)

- 1 besides route S207 & about 20 kilometres northeast of Zhangbei & eight kilometres southwest of Chabei, Zhangjiakou, Hebei on the 12/9/2010. (41°29.0'N., 114°55.8'E.). (1340 metres)
- 2 singles southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010. One of these, an adult, was watched repeatedly mobbing the Pallas's Fish Eagle at Zhagesitai while the other, a juvenile, was nearby at Hao Lu Tu later in the morning.
- 1 over the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

GREAT BUSTARD *Otis tarda* VU 大鸨

(1/9 1 1)

- 1 flew south at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.

COMMON MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* 黑水鸡

(1/9 1 1)

- 1 on Liyupao, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.

COMMON COOT *Fulica atra* 骨顶鸡

(6/9 515 934)

- 515 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. The vast majority of these (485) were southeast of Sanggandalai in the early morning with 450 counted on Zhagesitai & just 35 on Hao Lu Tu. Elsewhere there were just 30 birds on Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day. 20 of these were at the north-eastern side of the lake while the other ten were at the south-western end.

65 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 30 of these were on Liyupao & the other 35 were on Dali Nur at Honggou.
175 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
74 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. 52 of these were at Beihekou & 22 on Ganggen Nur with 17 at the southern end & the other five near the protection station at the northwestern end.
10 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
95 on Liyupao, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.

DEMOISELLE CRANE *Anthropoides virgo* 蓑羽鹤

(8/9 4980 13,150)

460 were counted at 11h45 at Km post 44 on the road between Hui Tanghe cun & the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 13/9/2010. This site was about one kilometre west of a small village & about not very far from Zhenzi Shan (literally 'Anvil Mountain'). This site (43°25.69'N., 116°34.37'E) is also 8.2 kilometres west of the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha. (1290 metres.)
830 over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning of the 14/9/2010.
48 in Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010. 31 of these were at Beihekou while the other 17 flew over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha during lunch.
480 over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the first 45 minutes of light on the 16/9/2010. Flocks varied in size from 17 to about 90 birds.
217 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 205 of these were over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning while the other 12 flew southwest over the Silver Sands in the late morning.
4980 from the car park of the hotel between 05h20-05h50. They were almost all seen well to the northeast of the hotel & were flying away from the lake (where they'd been presumably feeding overnight) & back in to the fields to the north. A similar movement, but apparently on a smaller scale, had occurred every morning that we'd been in the Dali Nur area. Vocal birds were already on the move well before the sun came up & well before they were visible so its highly likely that many, many more than the 4980 birds that I counted were involved. Interestingly passage ceased just before official sunrise (05h54). Later in the day we encountered a flock of about 170 birds feeding in fields about six, or seven kilometres to the west of the hotel. I was able to age 78 of these – this produced 70 adults (89%) & just eight juveniles (11%).
2940 at Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010. Birds were seen at two sites with 1500 being counted over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning (all before 05h30) & 2940 in the fields at Ga Song Shan a short while later. Birds were still arriving at that site when we left at 06h45 & its likely that the best time to count birds here is in the early evening just before they start to head off to feed besides the lake edge during the night. Its impossible to know how much duplication there was in today's two counts – perhaps none as the birds over the hotel appeared to be heading further west than Ga Song Shan. However I've been conservative & have gone with the number counted feeding in the fields at Ga Song Shan.
1765 on the 20/9/2010. 1695 of these were counted as they flew distantly past the Dali Nur NNR hotel before dawn (& specifically between 05h32-05h44) while the other 70 flew west-south-west over the Arshihaty Stone Forest at 11h20.

WHITE-NAPED CRANE *Grus vipio* VU 白枕鹤

(2/9 11 20)

9 at Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010. Five of these (a pair & a separate family party with two adults and one juvenile) were at the north-eastern side of the lake & the other four (another family party – this time of two adults with two fully grown juveniles) at the south-western end.
11 at the southern end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. They were in four discrete family groups with two pairs, one pair with a juvenile & another pair with two juveniles.

BLACK-WINGED STILT *Himantopus himantopus* 黑翅长脚鹬

(1/9 1 1)

1 at Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.

PIED AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta* 反嘴鹬

(5/9 17 43)

17 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. 14 of these were besides Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai in the early morning while the other three were near Guanhu zhan at the north-western side of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day.
7 in Mantuo Bay, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.
7 at the southern end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.
9 on the edge of the Silver Sands at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
3 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.

NORTHERN LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* 凤头麦鸡

(8/9 275 515)

2 on the edge of Sanggandalai on the 12/9/2010. (1270 metres)
275 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. Just 30 of these were around the lakes southeast of Sanggandalai with two at Zhagesitai & the other 28 at Hao Lu Tu. Elsewhere there were 245 on Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day with 210 at Guanhu zhan at the north-western side & the other 35 at the south-western end.
40 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. Eight of these were in Mantuo Bay, 15 were besides Liyupao & the remaining 17 were on the lake edge at Honggou.
10 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
54 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.
25 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.
70 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 25 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning; 20 more were at Liyupao & the remaining 25 birds were near Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') in the late afternoon.
41 around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis fulva* 金斑鸻

(5/9 27 54)

10 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. One was heard in Mantuo Bay while the other nine were near the lake edge at Honggou.

8 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.

7 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.

2 singles at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. The first of these was at Beihekou in the early morning while the other bird flew over the Silver Sands in the late morning.

27 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 26 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while just one was flew over Liyupao later in the day.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola* 灰斑鸻

(2/9 3 4)

1 was heard at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.

3 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius* 金眶鸻

(3/9 3 7)

3 at Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.

1 was heard over the southern end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.

3 on the edge of the Silver Sands at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.

KENTISH PLOVER *Charadrius alexandrinus* 环颈鸻

(2/9 4 5)

1 on the lake edge at the Silver Beach, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.

4 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Two of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while the other two were on the Silver Sands in the late morning.

PINTAIL or SWINHOLE'S SNIPE *Gallinago stenura* or *G. megala* 针尾沙锥 or 大沙锥

(4/9 5 10)

1 from the Silver Beach boardwalk at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.

5 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Two of these were on the Silver Sands in the late morning while the other three were around the edge of Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.

2 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.

2 singles were flushed by Eastern Marsh Harriers, from the marsh at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

COMMON SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago* 扇尾沙锥

(6/9 63 142)

28 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. Just three of these were around Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai in the morning while elsewhere there were 25 at Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day. 17 of the latter were at the north-eastern side while the other eight were at the south-western end.

9 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. Eight of these were besides the Silver Beach boardwalk while the ninth bird was at Liyupao.

6 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.

63 in the Silver Sands – Mantuo Bay area at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.

9 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. Seven of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while the other two were at Liyupao later in the day.

27 in the marsh at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa [limosa] melanuroides*

(6/9 1610 3562)

75 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 17 of these were in Mantuo Bay, 25 were on the lake at Honggou & the remaining 33 were at Fenghuangzui.

1610 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010. As on the previous days all the ones I was able to age (300+ birds) were juveniles.

455 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.

1112 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 945 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning, another 57 were besides the lake at the Silver Sands in the late morning while 110 were in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.

255 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.

55 in the marsh at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

LITTLE CURLEW *Numenius minutus* 小杓鹬

(2/9 1 2)

1 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.

1 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus* 中杓鹬

(1/9 1 1)

1 was heard at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.

EURASIAN CURLEW *Numenius arquata* NT 白腰杓鹬

(5/9 82 143)

3 at Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010.

31 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.

82 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.

22 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 15 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while another seven were besides the lake at the Silver Sands in the late morning.

5 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.

EASTERN CURLEW *Numenius madagascariensis* NT 大杓鹬

(1/9 1 1)

1 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* 鹤鹬

(7/9 90 233)

90 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. 35 of these were around Zhagesitai, southeast of Sanggandalai in the morning while elsewhere there were 55 at Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day. 30 of the latter were at Guanhu zhan at north-western side while the other 25 were at the south-western end.

27 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. Three of these were in Mantuo Bay, nine others were besides Liyupao, 54 were on the lake at Honggou & the remaining 15 were at Fenghuangzui.

15 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.

47 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Seven of these were at Beihekou & 40 on Ganggen Nur with 35 at the southern end & the other five near the protection station at the northwestern end.

29 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Just three of these were at Beihekou in the early morning, another 11 were besides the lake at the Silver Sands in the late morning while 15 more were in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.

22 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 15 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while the other seven were at Liyupao later in the day.

3 in the marsh at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

COMMON REDSHANK *Tringa totanus* 红脚鹬

(2/9 2 3)

2 singles at Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010.

1 at the Silver Sands Tourist complex at Dali Nur NNR in the late morning of the 17/9/2010.

MARSH SANDPIPER *Tringa stagnatilis* 泽鹬

(5/9 11 17)

11 at Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.

2 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.

2 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.

1 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.

1 in the marsh at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

COMMON GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* 青脚鹬

(6/9 3 11)

3 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. One of these was at Zhagesitai, southeast of Sanggandalai in the morning while the other two were at the south-western end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day.

1 at Liyupao, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.

1 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.

2 singles at the southern end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.

2 at Liyupao, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.

2 in the marsh at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* 白腰草鹬

(4/9 1 4)

1 at Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.

1 was heard near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 16/9/2010.

1 at the Silver Sands Tourist complex at Dali Nur NNR in the late morning of the 17/9/2010.

1 flew over the marsh at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* 林鹞

(2/9 8 9)

1 at Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.
8 in the marsh at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

TEREK SANDPIPER *Xenus cinereus* 翘嘴鹞

(1/9 1 1)

1 was heard at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos* 矶鹞

(1/9 1 1)

1 at the Silver Sands Tourist complex at Dali Nur NNR in the late morning of the 17/9/2010.

RUDDY TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres* 翻石鹞

(2/9 2 2)

2 at the Silver Sands Tourist complex at Dali Nur NNR in the late morning of the 17/9/2010.

RED-NECKED STINT *Calidris ruficollis* 红颈滨鹞

(2/9 26 27)

26 juveniles at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
1 at the Silver Sands Tourist complex at Dali Nur NNR in the late morning of the 17/9/2010.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii* 青脚滨鹞

(1/9 3 3)

3 on the lake edge by the 'Blue Lake & Silver Beach Car Park & Tourist Complex' in Mantuo Wan at the southern end of Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* 弯嘴滨鹞

(5/9 63 132)

21 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. 16 of these was at Zhagesitai, southeast of Sanggandalai in the morning with while the other five were at the north-eastern side of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day.
63 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010. All the ones I was able to age, which was perhaps as many as 50 birds, were juvenile.
4 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.
35 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. All of those seen well enough to age were juveniles.
9 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* 黑腹滨鹞

(2/9 2 2)

2 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* 红嘴鸥

(8/9 2641 6407)

2641 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. Just about 160 of these were near Sanggandalai in the early morning with 45 between the town & Zhagesitai, another 110 were counted on Zhagesitai itself while there were just six on Hao Lu Tu. Elsewhere there were about 2480 around Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day. 2140 of the latter were at the north-eastern side of the lake while the other 340 were at the south-western end.
365 in Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 150 of these were in Mantuo Bay, 75 were on Liyupao, 100 were on the lake at Honggou & the remaining 40 were at Fenghuangzui.
1600 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.
1270 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. 550 of these were at Beihekou & 720 on Ganggen Nur with 350 at the southern end & the other 370 near the protection station at the northwestern end.
320 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 250 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning, another 40 were besides the lake at the Silver Sands in the late morning while 30 were in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
150 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 40 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while the other 140 were at Liyupao later in the day.
60 around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.
1 near the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010.

LITTLE GULL *Hydrocoloeus minutus* 小鸥

(1/9 1 1)

1 first-winter was seen well at Liyupao, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.

RELICT GULL *Ichthyaetus relictus* VU 遗鸥

(2/9 1 2)

1 first-winter on the lake edge by the 'Blue Lake & Silver Beach Car Park & Tourist Complex' in Mantuo Wan at the southern end of Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.

1 second-winter on the Silver Sands at the southern end of Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.

PALLAS'S GULL *Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus* 渔鸥

(5/9 4 9)

2 singles were at Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010. A moulting juvenile was at Guanhu zhan at north-western side of the lake while an adult-winter was at the south-western end. The first bird was photographed by Zhao Chao.

1 adult-winter on the lake edge by the 'Blue Lake & Silver Beach Car Park & Tourist Complex' in Mantuo Wan at the southern end of Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.

4 juveniles near the protection station at the northwestern end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.

1 juvenile with other gulls on a small, roadside freshwater pool not far from Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.

1 adult-winter on the beach at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010. It was a different bird, with a more extensive remnant of a summer plumage hood, to the bird seen there on the 14/9/2010.

MEW GULL *Larus canus* 海鸥

(1/9 1 1)

1 first-winter with other gulls on a small, roadside freshwater pool not far from Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.

'HERRING GULL ASSEMBLAGE'

(2/9 6 6)

20 very distant birds on a couple of lakes between the Hebei-Nei Mongol border & Baocheng on the 12/9/2010. In addition another 10 were seen on a lake not far south of the same border & in Hebei. (1270 metres)

6 very distant birds were seen at Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010. Judging from subsequent encounters they were almost certainly Mongolian Gulls.

VEGA GULL *Larus vegae* 西伯利亚银鸥

(1/9 1 1)

1 second-winter near the protection station at the northwestern end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.

MONGOLIAN GULL *Larus mongolicus* 蒙古银鸥

(8/9 195 610)

121 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. Just six of these were at Hao Lu Tu, Sanggandalai in the early morning while elsewhere there were 115 were counted around Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day. 70 of the latter were at Guanhu zhan at north-western side of the lake while the other 45 were at the south-western end.

165 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 20 of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha, 100 more in Mantuo Bay, 35 were on the lake at Honggou & the remaining ten were at Fenghuangzui.

25 at Beihekou in the northeast corner of Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.

56 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Just six of these were at Beihekou & 50 on Ganggen Nur with ten at the southern end & the other 40 near the protection station at the northwestern end.

195 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 15 of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; another 15 were at Beihekou; 20 more were near the Silver Sands at the southern end of the lake while were besides the lake at the Silver Sands in the late morning while 145 were with other gulls on a small, roadside freshwater pool not far from Beihekou in the early afternoon.

31 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 20 of these were at Beihekou in the early morning; one more was on Liyupao while the remaining ten were seen from Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') later in the day.

15 around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

2 near the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010.

CASPIAN TERN *Hydroprogne caspia* 红嘴巨鸥

(5/9 51 133)

12 at Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010. Two of them were at Guanhu zhan at north-western side of the lake while the other ten were at the south-western end.

51 on the Silver Beach at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.

8 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. One of these was at Beihekou in the mid-afternoon while the other seven were around Ganggen Nur with three at the southern end & four (two parties both with one adult and an attendant juvenile) near the protection station at the northwestern end.
19 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Three of these, two adults and an attendant juvenile, were at Beihekou in the early morning; another 11 were besides the lake at the Silver Sands in the late morning while the remaining five were in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
43, including several juveniles, around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* 普通燕鸥

(5/9 9 21)

1 juvenile at Zhagesitai, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.

2 juveniles at Liyupao, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.

1 adult near the protection station at the northwestern end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.

9 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. The first of these, an adult, flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning while the other eight were off the Silver Sands at the southern end of the lake in the late morning.

8 at Liyupao, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus* 白翅浮鸥

(2/9 1 2)

1 juvenile at the north-eastern side of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010.

1 juvenile at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.

HILL PIGEON *Columba rupestris* 岩鸽

(2/9 1 1)

5 were seen just seven minutes north of Baocheng on the 12/9/2010. (1430 metres)

1 at Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain'), Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.

ORIENTAL TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia orientalis* 山斑鸠

(6/9 13 26)

1 near Zhangbei, Hebei on the 12/9/2010.

13 between Sanggandalai & Zhagesitai on the 13/9/2010.

2 singles at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. The first was near Mantuo Bay & the second close to Liyupao.

3 on the edge of Mantuo Bay at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 17/9/2010.

6 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. three of these flew over us at Beihekou in the early morning while the other three were at Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') later in the day.

2 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto* 灰斑鸠

(1/9 1 1)

1 at Liyupao, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua* 纵纹腹小鸮

(5/9 1 5)

1 was heard near Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.

1 was heard outside the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha at 05h00 on the 15/9/2010.

1 near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early afternoon of the 16/9/2010.

1 near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 19/9/2010.

1 near the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010.

COMMON KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis* 普通翠鸟

(1/9 1 1)

1 at the south-western side of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010.

EURASIAN HOOPOE *Upupa epops* 戴胜

(1/9 2 2)

2 singles on the edge of Mantuo Bay, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.

GREY-CAPPED PYGMY WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos canicapillus* 星头啄木鸟

(1/9 1 1)

1 in the Arshihaty Stone Forest on the 20/9/2010. (1700 metres)

CHINESE GREY SHRIKE *Lanius sphenocercus* 楔尾伯劳

(2/9 2 3)

1 at Zhagesitai, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.

2 singles in Dali Nur NNR on the 19/9/2010. The first was seen besides the road about two kilometres east of the hotel while the second bird was in the open scrub at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

AZURE-WINGED MAGPIE *Cyanopica cyanus* 灰喜鹊

(1/9 15 15)

15 south-east of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010. Nine of these were at Zhagesitai while the other six were near Hao Lu Tu.

COMMON MAGPIE *Pica pica* 喜鹊

(8/9 108 253)

20 between the Hebei-Nei Mongol border, Baocheng & Sanggandalai on the 12/9/2010. In addition another 20 were seen in Hebei.

108 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. The vast majority of these (100 birds) were in the area between Sanggandalai, Zhagesitai & Hao Lu Tu in the early morning while just eight were in Dali Nur NNR later in the day.

54 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.

4 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Two of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while the other two were besides the protection station at the northwestern end of Ganggen Nur.

37 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. The first two of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha; another 25 were between there, Mantuo Shan & the Silver Sands in the late morning while the remaining ten birds were in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.

17 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. Two of these were at Beihekou in the early morning while the other 15 were on Liyupao later in the day.

31 in Dali Nur NNR on the 19/9/2010. Four of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha, another two were seen between there & Gong Ga Shan while the remaining 25 were in the open woodland at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

4 on the 20/9/2010. Two of these were close to the Dali Nur NNR hotel while the other two were seen between there & the Arshihaty Stone Forest later in the day.

DAURIAN JACKDAW *Coloeus dauuricus* 达乌里寒鸦

(6/9 537 1021)

4 at the north-eastern side of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010.

537 in two flocks (one of 185 & the other of 345 birds) at Liyupao, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.

255 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 40 of these were near Daerhan cun near Mantuo Shan in the late morning while the other 215 flew west along the lakes southern shore at Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.

80 in a single flock at Liyupao, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.

145 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010. We encountered a single, a pair & a party of 142 birds.

185 between Dali Nur & the Arshihaty Stone Forest on the 20/9/2010. 85 of these flew south near the conifer forest 60 kilometres south of Bayanchagan while the other 100 were in a mixed corvid flock 12 kilometres further north.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus* 秃鼻乌鸦

(2/9 70 75)

70 besides route S207 between Zhangbei, the Hebei-Nei Mongol border & Sanggandalai on the 12/9/2010.

5 in a large mixed flock of corvids between Dali Nur & the Arshihaty Stone Forest on the 20/9/2010.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone* 小嘴乌鸦

(2/9 20 23)

3 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

20 in a large mixed flock of corvids between Dali Nur & the Arshihaty Stone Forest on the 20/9/2010.

CORVID SP.

(3/9 400 600)

400 besides route S207 between Zhangbei, Hebei & Sanggandalai, Nei Mongol on the 12/9/2010. Particularly large counts included 250 unidentified corvids at the Saker Falcon site 20 kilometres northeast of Zhangbei & eight kilometres southwest of Chabei, Zhangjiakou, Hebei; 40 more were seen just five minutes north of the Nei Mongol border; 40 more were seen at Km post 286 ten minutes further north; 50 more were seen nine minutes south of Baocheng. All the corvids that were seen well enough to specifically identify were Rooks & its highly likely that the vast majority of the other, unidentified ones were also Rooks as this is by far the commonest large corvid in this area (Zhao Chao pers. comm. 12/9/2010). (1320 [40 birds], 1330 [4 & 300 birds] & 1360 [50 birds] metres)

1 near Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.

200 between Dali Nur & the Arshihaty Stone Forest on the 20/9/2010.

WILLOW TIT *Poecile montana* 褐头山雀

(3/9 3 6)

2 near Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.

1 from the Golden Sands boardwalk at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.

3, a pair & a separate single, in the open willow scrub around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

JAPANESE TIT *Parus minor* 远东山雀

(1/9 3 3)

3 in the open willow scrub around the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

MONGOLIAN LARK *Melanocorypha mongolica* 蒙古百灵

(1/9 1 1)

1 flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning of the 17/9/2010.

ASIAN SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella cheleensis* 亚洲短趾百灵

(7/9 28 67)

3 near Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.

2 near the lake edge in Mantuo Bay, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.

8 between the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha and the lake edge at Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010.

2 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR in the mid-afternoon of the 16/9/2010.

28 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Two of these were at Beihekou in the early morning; another single flew over the Silver Sands in the late morning while the remaining 25 were in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.

11 flew south at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.

13 in Dali Nur NNR on the 19/9/2010. the first of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha just before dawn while the other 12 were seen around the southern end of the lake later in the day.

EURASIAN SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis* 云雀

(7/9 25 80)

1 near Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.

2 near the lake edge in Mantuo Bay, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.

14 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Three of these were around the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha, eight others were at Beihekou & three more around Ganggen Nur with two at the southern end & the other near the protection station at the northwestern end.

17 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Five of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; eight more were at Beihekou; another two birds flew over the Silver Sands in the late morning while the remaining two were in Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.

25 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. Seven of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning, another eight were at Beihekou in the early morning; another eight were at Liyupao while the final two were near Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') later in the day.

19 in Dali Nur NNR on the 19/9/2010. Six of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha, another two were seen between there & Gong Ga Shan while the remaining 11 were in the open woodland at the southern end of the lake.

2 flew south over the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* 崖沙燕

(1/9 2 2)

2 flew over the protection station at the northwestern end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.

BARN SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* 家燕

(8/9 17 80)

15 near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 13/9/2010.

4 near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 14/9/2010.

6 near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 15/9/2010.

15 around the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 16/9/2010.

9 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Five of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; another was over the Silver Sands in the late morning while the remaining three were over Mantuo Shan mid-afternoon.

17 near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 18/9/2010.

9 near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 19/9/2010.

6 flew south over the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus* 欧柳莺

(1/9 1 1)

1 near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early evening of the 18/9/2010. It was watched, on-and-off, for about one hour in light scrub lining the road between the hotel & the shore of Dali Nur. Found at 17h15 while I was birding on my own in the early evening I managed to phone Zhao Chao who contacted his boss, & skilled photographer, Zhang Shuqing. ZS was already back in the hotel & only a few hundred metres away, he arrived quickly & rapidly

obtained some excellent images of the bird. Zhao Chao arrived about 15 minutes later & also saw & photographed it. This is apparently the first record of Willow Warbler from Nei Mongol & possibly only the second record for continental China. There is one accepted Hong Kong record (one at Long Valley on 23 Oct 2008), a bird seen only by the photographer & subsequently identified from his photo on the HKBWS web-site. (see <http://www.hkbws.org.hk/BBS/viewthread.php?tid=6356&extra=page%3D15>). The record will be published in the 2007-08 HKBR which should be out before the end of 2010. (Richard Lewthwaite *in litt.* & Geoff Carey *in litt.* both 28 Sept. 2010). At about the same time another Willow Warbler was seen and photographed in Taiwan (see <http://nc.kl.edu.tw/bbs/showthread.php?t=22612&page=8>)

DUSKY WARBLER *Phylloscopus fuscatus* 褐柳莺

(6/9 28 49)

4 singles at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. Two of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while the other two were heard from the Golden Sands boardwalk.

1 was heard near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 15/9/2010.

2 singles near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 16/9/2010.

6 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. One of these was near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; another three were in the Yellow Birch scrub at the Silver Sands in the late morning while the remaining two were on the edge of Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.

8 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. One of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning, another three were in the longer grass at Beihekou in the early morning; two more were at Liyupao while the remaining two were near Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') later in the day.

28 in Dali Nur NNR on the 19/9/2010. Two of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while the other 26 were in the open woodland at the southern end of the lake.

RADDE'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus schwarzi* 巨嘴柳莺

(1/9 1 1)

1 from the boardwalk trail through the Yellow Birch scrub at the Silver Sands at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.

PALLAS'S LEAF WARBLER *Phylloscopus proregulus* 黄腰柳莺

(4/9 5 9)

1 in the garden of the Dali Nur NNR HQ on the 16/9/2010.

1 from the boardwalk trail through the Yellow Birch scrub at the Silver Sands at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.

5 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. Two of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning while the other three were near Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') later in the day.

2 singles in the open woodland at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus*

(5/9 39 68)

2 singles at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. One of these was seen in the garden of the Reserve HQ while the other was heard from the Golden Sands boardwalk.

6 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Five of these were around the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while the sixth bird was at Beihekou.

6 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. One of these was near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; another was at Beihekou; three were noted from the boardwalk trail through the Yellow Birch scrub at the Silver Sands in the late morning while the final bird was in scrub on the edge of Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.

15 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. Five of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning, another was at Beihekou in the early morning; yet another was at Liyupao while the remaining eight were near Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') later in the day.

39 in Dali Nur NNR on the 19/9/2010. Just one of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while the other 38 were in the open woodland at the southern end of the lake.

BLACK-BROWED REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps* 黑眉苇莺

(1/9 1 1)

1 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

LANCEOLATED WARBLER *Locustella lanceolata* 矛斑蝗莺

(2/9 1 2)

1 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.

1 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.

[In addition one bird, possibly this species, was heard poorly & briefly besides the Golden Sands boardwalk at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010].

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca* 白喉林莺

(2/9 2 3)

1 in scrub on the edge of Mantuo Bay, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.

2 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

[In addition one bird, possibly this species, was heard poorly & briefly on Mantuo Shan, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010].

WHITE-CHEEKED STARLING *Spodiopsar cineraceus* 灰椋鸟

(6/9 165 334)

180 on the southern edge of Sanggandalai on the evening on the 12/9/2010. (1270 metres)
165 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. The vast majority of these (155 birds) were in the area between Sanggandalai & Zhagesitai in the early morning while just ten were around Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day.
18 on the edge of Mantuo Bay, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.
122 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. One of these was near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; another 51 were in the Silver Sands car park in the late morning while the remaining 70 birds were in scrub on the edge of Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
1 near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 18/9/2010.
28 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

WHITE'S THRUSH *Zoothera aurea* 怀氏虎鸫

(4/9 2 5)

1 between Sanggandalai & Zhagesitai on the 13/9/2010.
2 singles at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. One of these was seen in the garden of the Reserve HQ while the other was near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha.
1 in the garden of the Dali Nur NNR HQ on the 16/9/2010.
1 near the Yang Cao Protection Station at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

EYEBROWED THRUSH *Turdus obscurus* 白眉鸫

(5/9 3 10)

3 near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 14/9/2010.
2 singles at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. The first bird was close to the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while the other, a first-winter male, was at Beihekou.
3 singles in Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010. The first was at Beihekou while the second & third were besides the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha later in the day.
One of the later was heard flying over the hotel at 21h00.
1 near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha, Dali Nur NNR early on the 17/9/2010.
1 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.

THRUSH SP. 鸫 sp.

(4/9 15 17)

15 birds, in a single compact flock, circled high over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha at about 08h45 on the 16/9/2010.
1 near the Silver Sands, Dali Nur NNR early on the 17/9/2010.
1 flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha before dawn on the 19/9/2010.
1 flew south over the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010.

SIBERIAN RUBYTHROAT *Luscinia calliope* 红喉歌鸫

(2/9 2 4)

2 singles at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. A first seen in –winter male was seen in the garden of the Reserve HQ while the other was heard near the top of Mantuo Shan.
2 separate first-winter males were at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. The first was at Beihekou & the second Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain').

COMMON STONECHAT *Saxicola maurus* 黑喉石鸫

(6/9 42 86)

1 around the south-western end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010.
6 on the edge of Mantuo Bay, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.
5 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.
29 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 16 of these was near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; another was at Beihekou; four more were noted from the boardwalk trail through the Yellow Birch scrub at the Silver Sands in the late morning while the final eight birds were in scrub on the edge of Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.
42 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 26 of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning, another five were at Beihekou in the early morning; two more were at Liyupao while the remaining nine were near Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') later in the day.
3 in Dali Nur NNR on the 19/9/2010. Two of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while the other was in the open woodland at the southern end of the lake.

NORTHERN WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe* 穗鹑

(1/9 1 1)

1 besides the road near the turning to Beihekou, about five kilometres east of the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 14/9/2010.

BLUE ROCK THRUSH *Monticola solitarius* 蓝矶鸫

(1/9 1 1)

1 at Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain'), Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.

TAIGA FLYCATCHER *Ficedula albicilla* 红喉姬鹟

(4/9 8 21)

6 near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 14/9/2010. Three of these were near the museum in the morning while the other three were in the garden of the Reserve HQ in the early afternoon

2 singles near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 16/9/2010.

6 in the Mantuo Shan – Mantuo Bay – Silver Sands area at the southern end of Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.

5 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. Two of these were at Liyupao while the other three were near Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain').

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* 麻雀

(9/9 550 2454)

60 in Nei Mongol on the 12/9/2010.

54 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. Almost all of these were around the hotel on the southern edge of Sanggandalai in the early morning while just four were seen near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha later in the day.

350 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. 250 of these were in & around the village near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha.

100 near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 15/9/2010.

550 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. 400 of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while the other 100 were besides the protection station at the northwestern end on Ganggen Nur.

250 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. 200 of these was near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning while the other 50 were in the Silver Sands area at the southern end of the lake later in the day.

400 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 350 of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha & the other 50 were at Liyupao.

550 in Dali Nur NNR on the 19/9/2010. 350 of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while the other 200 were in the open woodland at the southern end of the lake later in the day.

300 on the 20/9/2010. 200 of these were counted as they flew south over the Dali Nur NNR hotel in the early morning while the other 100 were between the Arshihaty Stone Forest & Xilinhot later in the day.

EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla tschutschensis* 黄鹡鸰

(9/9 99 233)

99, including two *macronyx* & seven *taivana*, in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. 27 of these were near Sanggandalai in the early morning with two over the hotel on the southern edge of town before dawn & 25 at Hao Lu Tu to the southeast later in the morning. Elsewhere 72 were seen around Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day with almost all of these (70 birds) being seen at the south-western end of the lake, where they were probably going to roost, late in the day.

41 including one *macronyx* & five *taivana*, at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. Just five of these were noted near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while another 25 were in Mantuo Bay, six more were near Liyupao & another five were at Fenghuangzui.

4 in Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010. The first two were at Beihekou & the second two over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha.

30 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Six of these were around the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha, six others were at Beihekou while 18 more were seen around Ganggen Nur with six at the southern end & the other 12 near the protection station at the northwestern end. The only birds that were racially assigned were four *taivana* at the latter site.

39, including three *taivana*, at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. Four of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; another five did the same at Beihekou later in the morning; 15 more were noted from the boardwalk trail through the Yellow Birch scrub at the Silver Sands in the late morning while the final 15 birds were on the edge of Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.

8 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. Two of these were flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning, another four did the same at Beihekou also in the early morning while two more were at Liyupao.

11 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

1 flew south over the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea* 灰鹡鸰

(7/9 6 23)

2 at Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.

5 singles at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. Three of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while the other two were at the Silver Beach immediately west of Mantuo Bay.

6 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Four of these were around the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while the other two flew south at Beihekou.

5 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. The first of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; another bird did the same at Beihekou later in the morning; two more were noted from the boardwalk trail through the Yellow Birch scrub at the Silver Sands in the late morning while the final bird was on the edge of Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.

3 singles at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. One flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning, another did the same at Beihekou also in the early morning while the third & final bird was at Liyupao.

1 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

1 flew south over the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010.

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba* 白鹡鸰

(9/9 171 405)

22 flew south near the hotel on the southern edge of Sanggandalai on the evening on the 12/9/2010. It was just before sunset & they were undoubtedly heading to roost. (1270 metres)

70, including ten *ocularis*, in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. 37 of these were near Sanggandalai in the early morning with two at Zhagesitai & 35 more at Hao Lu Tu. 33 others were seen around Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day with eight of these at Guanhu zhan at north-western side and the other 25 at the south-western end.

49, including five *ocularis*, at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. Birds were widely encountered & the only two significant counts were 16 that flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning & another 25 that were in Mantuo Bay.

5 near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 15/9/2010.

33 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Ten of these were around the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha, 13 others were at Beihekou while ten more were seen around Ganggen Nur with just two at the southern end & eight near the protection station at the northwestern end. Three birds at the latter site were seen well enough to racially assign & two were *ocularis* & the other bird *leucopsis*,

171, including nine *ocularis*, at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. The first 91 of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; another ten did the same at Beihekou later in the morning; 20 more were noted from the boardwalk trail at the Silver Sands in the late morning while the final 50 were on the edge of Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.

31 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 14 of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning, another ten did the same at Beihekou also in the early morning; five more were at Liyupao while the final two were near Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') later in the day.

23 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

23 flew south over the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus richardi* 理氏鸚

(8/9 20 76)

3 were heard on the southern edge of Sanggandalai on the evening on the 12/9/2010. (1270 metres)

10 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. Nine of these were near Sanggandalai in the early morning with two over the hotel on the southern edge of town before dawn, four more at Zhagesitai & three at Hao Lu Tu. Elsewhere one was at the south-western end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR late in the day.

10 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. Five of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha, another four were in Mantuo Bay while the final bird of the day was at Fenghuangzui.

6 in Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010. The first two were at Beihekou while the other four were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha.

20 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Four of these were around the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha, 12 others were at Beihekou & four more around Ganggen Nur with three at the southern end & the other bird near the protection station at the northwestern end.

13 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. The first two of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; another five did the same at Beihekou later in the morning; three more were noted from the boardwalk trail at the Silver Sands in the late morning while the final three birds were on the edge of Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.

13 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. Three of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning, another seven did the same at Beihekou also in the early morning; one was at Liyupao while the final two were near Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') later in the day.

4 singles at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

BLYTH'S PIPIT *Anthus godlewskii* 布氏鸚

(4/9 2 5)

2 singles at Zhagesitai, southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010.

1 flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 14/9/2010.

1 flew over the boardwalk trail at the Silver Sands at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.

1 flew over the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT *Anthus hodgsoni* 树鸚

(9/9 58 240)

3 singles were heard over the hotel southern edge of Sanggandalai between 22h25-22h35 on the 12/9/2010. In addition another was heard flying south near the Bird's Nest Olympic Stadium on the 12/8/2010. (60 & 1270 metres)

58 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. The vast majority of these (51 birds) were near Sanggandalai in the early morning with two over the hotel on the southern edge of town before dawn, 45 more between there & Zhagesitai & four at Hao Lu Tu. Elsewhere seven were noted in Dali Nur NNR late in the day with at the south-western end of Ganggen Nur.

54 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. Birds were again widely encountered & the only two significant counts were 37 that flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning & another 15 that were in Mantuo Bay.

9 in Dali Nur NNR on the 15/9/2010. The first three were at Beihekou while the other six were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha.

33 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. 12 of these were around the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha, 15 others were at Beihekou & six more around Ganggen Nur with five at the southern end & just one near the protection station at the northwestern end.

37 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. The first seven of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; another 20 birds did the same at Beihekou later in the morning; five more were noted from the boardwalk trail at the Silver Sands in the late morning while the final five birds were on the edge of Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.

29 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. Ten of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning, another seven did the same at Beihekou also in the early morning; three more were at Liyupao while the remaining nine were near Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') later in the day.

11 in Dali Nur NNR on the 19/9/2010. Four of these were near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha, another two were seen near Gong Ga Shan while the remaining five were in the open woodland at the southern end of the lake.

12 on the 20/9/2010. Nine of these were counted as they flew south over the Dali Nur NNR hotel in the early morning while the other three were in the Arshihaty Stone Forest.

PECHORA PIPIT *Anthus gustavi* 北鸚

(2/9 1 2)

1 calling bird flew southwest over Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR at 06h47 on the 16/9/2010.

1 flew over the boardwalk trail at the Silver Sands at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus* 红喉鹀

(6/9 36 60)

3 near Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010 – two of these were at Zhagesitai & the other at Hao Lu Tu.

5 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. One of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning while the other four were in the Mantuo Bay/Silver Beach area later in the day.

3 singles flew south at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Two of these were at Beihekou & the other at the southern end Ganggen Nur.

36 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. The first two of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; another 15 birds did the same at Beihekou later in the morning; 16 more were noted from the boardwalk trail at the Silver Sands in the late morning while the final three birds were on the edge of Mantuo Bay in the late afternoon.

7 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. One of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning, another three did the same at Beihekou also in the early morning; two more were at Liyupao while the last bird was near Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') later in the day.

6 in Dali Nur NNR on the 19/9/2010. Two of these were near Gong Ga Shan while the other four were in the open woodland at the southern end of the lake later in the day.

BUFF-BELLIED PIPIT *Anthus rubescens japonicus* 黄腹鹀

(2/9 2 3)

2 flew southwest over Mantuo Bat at the southern end of Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.

1 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla* 燕雀

(3/9 6 9)

1 flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.

2 flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning of the 18/9/2010.

6 flew south over the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010.

LONG-TAILED ROSEFINCH *Uragus sibiricus* 长尾雀

(1/9 1 1)

1 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus* 普通朱雀

(6/9 10 35)

6 near Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010 – two of these flew over the hotel on the southern edge of town before dawn, three more were at Zhagesitai while the final bird was at Hao Lu Tu.

7 singles flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 14/9/2010.

2 singles flew south at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. The first did so over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while the second bird was at Beihekou.

8 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. The first five of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; another two birds did the same at Beihekou later in the morning while one more was noted from the boardwalk trail at the Silver Sands in the late morning.

10 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. Three of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning, another did the same at Beihekou also in the early morning while six others were on near Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') later in the day.

2 flew south over the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010.

PINE BUNTING *Emberiza leucocephalos* 白头鹀

(4/9 1 4)

1 flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.

1 flew south at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.

1 flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 19/9/2010.

1 flew south over the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010.

GODLEWSKI'S BUNTING *Emberiza godlewskii* 戈氏岩鹀

(1/9 3 3)

3 flew south over the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010. (1700 metres)

MEADOW BUNTING *Emberiza cioides* 三道眉草鹀

(2/9 1 2)

1 on Mantuo Shan, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.

1 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

TRISTRAM'S BUNTING *Emberiza tristrami* 白眉鹀

(1/9 1 1)

1 besides the Silver Beach boardwalk, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.

CHESTNUT-EARED BUNTING *Emberiza fucata* 栗耳鹀

(1/9 1 1)

1 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

LITTLE BUNTING *Emberiza pusilla* 小鹀

(8/9 460 589)

5 near Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010 – two of these flew over the hotel on the southern edge of town before dawn while the other three were at Zhagesitai.

13 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. Nine of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning.

2 besides the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha on the 15/9/2010.

37 at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. Eight of these were around the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha, 25 others were at Beihekou & four more at the southern end Ganggen Nur.

460 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. The first 47 of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning; an impressive 400 birds did the same at Beihekou later in the morning; eight more were noted from the boardwalk trail at the Silver Sands in the late morning & five more were in the Mantuo Shan – Mantuo Bay area in the late afternoon.

39 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. 12 of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning, another ten did the same at Beihekou also in the early morning; two more were at Liyupao while the last 15 were at Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain') later in the day.

28 in Dali Nur NNR on the 19/9/2010. Just one of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha before dawn while the other 27 were at the southern end of the lake later in the day.

5 flew south over the Dali Nur NNR hotel on the 20/9/2010.

YELLOW-BROWED BUNTING *Emberiza chrysophrys* 黄眉鹀

(1/9 1 1)

1 on Zhenzi Shan ('Anvil Mountain'), Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010.

BLACK-FACED BUNTING *Emberiza spodocephala* 灰头鹀

(5/9 4 8)

4 in Nei Mongol on the 13/9/2010. Three of these were between Sanggandalai & Zhagesitai in the early morning while the other was at the south-western end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR later in the day.

1 besides the Silver Beach boardwalk, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.

1 on the boardwalk trail at the Silver Sands at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.

1 near the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning of the 18/9/2010.

1 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

PALLAS'S BUNTING *Emberiza pallasii* 苇鹀

(6/9 9 24)

3 southeast of Sanggandalai on the 13/9/2010. Two of these were near Zhagesitai while the other bird was near Hao Lu Tu.

1 flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha at 05h00 on the 15/9/2010.

4 flew south at Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010. The first did so over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha while the other three birds were at Beihekou.

2 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.

9 at Dali Nur NNR on the 18/9/2010. Two of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning, another five did the same at Beihekou also in the early morning while two others were at Liyupao.

5 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus* 芦鹀

(1/9 1 1)

1 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

BUNTING SP.

(2/9 3 3)

3 separate birds were heard flying south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha before dawn on the 15/9/2010.

320 at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010. The first 20 of these flew south over the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha in the early morning while an impressive 300 more birds did the same at Beihekou later in the morning.

MAMMALS, REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

DAURIAN GROUND SQUIRREL *Spermophilus dauricus* 达乌尔黄鼠

(3/9 5 7)

1 besides route S207 just 25 minutes inside Nei Mongol & nine minutes south of Baocheng on the 12/9/2010. (1350 metres)

2 near Hao Lu Tu, southeast of Sanggendalai on the 13/9/2010.

5 between the Dali Nur hotel at Dalai Gacha & Liyupao on the 18/9/2010.

SIBERIAN CHIPMUNK *Tamias sibiricus* 花鼠

(1/9 1 1)

1 on the boardwalk trail at the Silver Sands at Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.

TOLAI HARE *Lepus tolai* 托氏兔

(1/9 1 1)

1 at the south-western end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010.

RED FOX *Vulpes vulpes* 赤狐

(3/9 1 3)

1 at Beihekou, Dali Nur NNR on the 16/9/2010.

1 in Mantuo Bay, Dali Nur NNR on the 17/9/2010.

1 at the southern end of Dali Nur on the 19/9/2010.

SIBERIAN ROE *Capreolus pyrgargus* 西伯利亚狍

(2/9 3 4)

1 at the south-western end of Ganggen Nur, Dali Nur NNR on the 13/9/2010.

3 at Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010. All three were together & between Mantuo Bay & the Silver Beach immediately east of there.

SNAKE SP.

(1/9 1 1)

1 on Mantuo Shan, Dali Nur NNR on the 14/9/2010.

Paul Holt Beijing 22 September 2010.