

BIRDING IN
XINJIANG,
CHINA
3-20 OCTOBER

2012



Rufous-naped Tit at Aoyitake FF, Shule

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INTRODUCTION

In October 2012 I made my sixth birding trip to Xinjiang, western China. It was an excellent trip - all the logistics worked well and everything ran smoothly. As on all five of my previous trips I again travelled, but this time only briefly, with Qingyu WANG and we were very fortunate to team up for our fifth time with local birder, Urumqi based GOU Jun. I spent a lot of time birding together with GOU Jun and I also met a couple more Xinjiang birders, my friend XU Jie, in Shihezi and skilled bird photographer and rarity finder Mr DING in Shache. All the birders that we met was again very friendly, extraordinarily helpful and generous and once again our trip would have been no-where near as enjoyable, nor as successful without their help. During this trip we covered about 3000 kilometres and recorded about 158 species. Highlights included one globally threatened bird, as defined by BirdLife International - a first-winter Relict Gull at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8 October 2012. I also recorded four Near Threatened species – Ferruginous Duck, Black-tailed Godwit, Eurasian Curlew and European Roller.

In addition one new species for Xinjiang (Smoky Warbler) was logged as were the following local rarities –

a Black-throated Loon at Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache on the 13 October;
three sightings of Barbary Falcon;
a Common Ringed Plover at Moguhu on the 5 October;
five Slender-billed Gulls with three winter-plumaged adults at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha on the 13 October and two adults at the northern end of Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16 October;
three sightings involving a total of five juvenile Little Gulls in southern Xinjiang;
several sightings of Heuglin's Gull;
one sighting of a possible 'Baraba Gull';
a late Whiskered Tern at Tumushuke on the 18 October
a late White-winged Tern at Yingjisha on the 13 October
three Red-throated Pipits near Yigaierqi reservoir, Shache on the 14 October;
one and two Buff-bellied Pipits at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6th and 8 October respectively;
four Little Buntings with three at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu on the 4 October and one at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8 October 2012.

Rufous-naped Tit, a very localised bird in China, was seen in Shufu on the 10 October 2012.

Other noteworthy sightings included large numbers of the following species -

Greylag Goose	815 at the Anjihai reservoirs, Shawan on the 7 October);
Gadwall	4645 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18 October;
Common Pochard	8100 on Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 19 October);
Ferruginous Duck	672 on Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 12 October);
Tufted Duck	3090 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18 October);
Great Cormorant	5220 near Shihezi on the 6 October - with 4500 on Moguhu and the other 720 at Dachuangou reservoir);
Eurasian Coot	7015 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18 October);
Eurasian Crag Martin	175 at Xike'er xiang, Jiashi on the 12 October);
Common Starlings	Perhaps as many as 10,000 in the Shache area on the 14 th and 15 October;
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	1600 near Shihezi on the 5 October;
Water Pipit	146 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8 October;
Mongolian Finch	100 besides Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18 October

Qingyu, as always, was a superb guide and fixer. She is the ground agent for all of the Chinese bird tours that I lead for Sunbird and Wings Inc. and, as always, she did an excellent job. I would not hesitate to recommend her. Her address is -

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Unlike my previous trips to northern Xinjiang I recorded very few mammals.

Sites I visited in northern Xinjiang –



Sites I visited in southern Xinjiang –



Dawn & Dusk

4 October 2012: Central Urumqi sunrise was at 08h10 and sunset 19h47. Note that, on a clear and cloudless day, it's probably sufficiently light to bird watch for 20-30 minutes either side of these times.

Participants

GOU Jun
Paul HOLT
WANG Qingyu

Summary

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

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

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Acknowledgements

First and foremost I must thank GOU Jun for his incredible generosity – my second, third, fourth, fifth and this sixth trip to Xinjiang would have been significantly poorer without his help and advice. Qingyu was, as always, a star.

Costs

Exchange rates

In October 2012	£1	=	9.8 yuan
	\$1US	=	6.0 yuan

Wednesday 3 October 2012. Morning Kunming, pm flight to Urumqi.

Morning and early afternoon in Kunming with a late afternoon/early evening flight to Urumqi.

I flew from Kunming to Urumqi via Chongqing with China Southern Airlines. This flight departed the gate on time in Kunming at 16h25 and arrived in Chongqing 63 minutes later. I briefly deplaned there with my second leg also departing on time. This one left Chongqing at 18h25 and landed in Urumqi, after a flight of almost 3.5 hours, at 21h54.

GOU Jun was kind enough to meet me when I arrived at Urumqi airport and he took me to a hotel in town.

Weather

Warm, humid & fairly clear in Kunming and, according to the staff on the plane, it was still 18°C when we landed in Urumqi just before 10pm.

Thursday 4 October 2012. All day north of Urumqi visiting Qingedahu, Wolonggang & Bayi reservoirs.

GOU Jun picked me up at the my Urumqi hotel at 08h00 and the two of us headed north out of the city on route S102. We spent the entire day at four sites not very far from Urumqi. The first area we visited was Qingedahu and we explored three places around that large reservoir. The second site was Wolonggang reservoir and the fourth and final site was Bayi reservoir. I'd visited all four sites on at least one of my previous visits to Xinjiang. We stopped, as we were leaving Qingedahu, for some noodles at lunch.

Site 1. Shang Yuchang Baohuqu, Qingedahu, Wujiagu. (44°06.0'N., 87°30.7'E.). 500 metres. (08h30-10h25).

We parked up outside the fence but otherwise right besides the steel watch tower belonging to the protection station and explored the area of fishponds, drainage channels, narrow strips of reed bed and scrub off to the north. In all we walked about 1.5 kilometres away from the vehicle and returned exactly the same way.

Mallard	1
Tufted Duck	4
Great Egret	15
Great Cormorant	300
Black Kite	1
Common Kestrel	1
Merlin	1
European Water Rail	1
Common Moorhen	1
Green Sandpiper	2
Black-headed Gull	40
Pallas's Gull	70
Mew Gull	6
'Herring Gull Assemblage'	5
Yellow-legged Gull	5
Oriental Turtle Dove	2
Common Kingfisher	1
Red-tailed Shrike	1
Azure Tit	12
White-crowned Penduline Tit	4
Bearded Reedling	48
Crested Lark	1
Common Chiffchaff	18
Hume's Leaf Warbler	2
Common Starling	25
Common Blackbird	1
Black-throated Thrush	1
Bluethroat	2
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	100

White Wagtail	3
Water Pipit	3
Brambling	3
European Greenfinch	4
Little Bunting	[3h?]
Reed Bunting	7

Site 2. Qingedahu, Wujiaqu. (44°07.5'N., 87°31.8'E.). 500 metres. (11h00-11h45)

This site is about 34 kilometres north of Urumqi city centre and has only recently been designated as a bird reserve. We stopped at several sites around the reservoir – but the water level was very high and, other than decent numbers of large gulls and cormorants, there was surprisingly little to see. Our first stop was inside the Lianhuachi (Lotus) Park where an entrance fee would normally be payable. Once inside the gate we drove right up to a large Buddha statue before climbing up the embankment to view the reservoir. We also visited the two protection station workers who had a small bungalow close to where the gulls and cormorants were in the south-western portion of the reservoir.

Being close to Urumqi city Qingedahu is probably the best birded site in the whole of Xinjiang and, according to GOU Jun (pers. comm. 5/10/2012), 208 species have been recorded there! Today we saw the following -

Great Crested Grebe	3
Little Bittern	1
Grey Heron	4
Great Egret	8
Great Cormorant	460
Common Kestrel	1
Black-headed Gull	80
Pallas's Gull	695
Yellow-legged Gull	575
Eurasian Collared Dove	1
Azure Tit	2
Bearded Reedling	20
Common Starling	20
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	100
Water Pipit	2

Site 3. Wolonggang Reservoir, Miqian. (44°11.3'N., 87°37.2'E.). 500 metres. (13h00-13h10)

This concrete-sided reservoir is about 41.3 kilometres north of Urumqi city centre (& 10 kilometres north of Qingedahu) and is probably about two kilometres in diameter. We drove north up the unpaved track on its western side and stopped to scan the reservoir a couple of times.

Greylag Goose	15
Gadwall	15
Eurasian Wigeon	5
Mallard	150
Northern Shoveler	55
Eurasian Teal	10
Ferruginous Duck NT	12
Grey Heron	3
Great Egret	13
Great Cormorant	110
Black Kite	1
Common Kestrel	1
Common Moorhen	1
Spotted Redshank	30
Common Greenshank	1
Black-headed Gull	10
Pallas's Gull	15
'Herring Gull Assemblage'	2
Yellow-legged Gull	2
Eurasian Collared Dove	1
Barn Swallow	7
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	20

Site 4. Bayi reservoir, Wujiaqu. (44°12.6'N., 87°38.4'E.). 500 metres. (13h15-18h15)

This larger reservoir, probably similar in size to Qingedahu, was undoubtedly the best site we visited today and held over 5000 water birds. It is only a few hundred metres north of the previous site - Wolonggang reservoir but it's difficult to drive between the two. Almost all of the birds were on Bayi reservoir's southern edge but unfortunately the reservoir has a river flowing in to about midway along that side that prevents you from walking around it. We walked to the south-western side of the reservoir edge from Wolonggang reservoir and scanned from there. After that we returned to the vehicle and attempted to gain access to the south-eastern portion – the area that held most of the birds. We did eventually find access.

Swan Goose VU	GOU Jun saw 1
Tundra Bean Goose	3
Greylag Goose	122
Common Shelduck	38
Ruddy Shelduck	385

Gadwall	720
Eurasian Wigeon	15
Mallard	4550
Northern Shoveler	365
Northern Pintail	220
Eurasian Teal	80
Red-crested Pochard	44
Common Pochard	9
Ferruginous Duck NT	3
Tufted Duck	35
Great Crested Grebe	2
Black-necked Grebe	9
Eurasian Spoonbill	9
Grey Heron	64
Great Egret	31
Great Cormorant	905
Black Kite	1
Common Buzzard	1
Common Kestrel	2
Peregrine Falcon	1
Common Moorhen	2
Common Coot	545
Pied Avocet	138
Grey Plover	6
Eurasian Curlew NT	3
Black-headed Gull	1450
Pallas's Gull	45
'Herring Gull Assemblage'	30
Yellow-legged Gull	30
Eurasian Collared Dove	1
Asian Short-toed Lark	5
Crested Lark	2
Barn Swallow	25
Common Starling	10
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	30
Western Yellow Wagtail	24
White Wagtail	1
Richard's Pipit	2
Water Pipit	1

Sun rise and sun set on 4 October 2012

Sun rise 08h10

Sun set 19h47

Note that the days are shortening by about three minutes every day at the moment – one minute later in the morning and two minutes earlier in the evening.

Weather

0/8 cloud cover and with no wind early morning – but only 5°C and feeling decidedly cool compared to Yunnan! Visibility was decent – being perhaps 8-10 kilometres in the early morning and more than that later in the day as a brisk northerly wind picked up. Despite very slightly more cloud appearing from the north in the afternoon the day soon warmer up and it was 21°C at Bayi reservoir by 13h45.

Swan Goose VU	1 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres) (GOU Jun)
Tundra Bean Goose	3 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
Greylag Goose	137 in the Wolonggang reservoir/Bayi reservoir area on the 4/10/2012 with 15 on Wolonggang reservoir, Miqian & 122 on Bayi reservoir, Wujiaqu. (500 metres)
Common Shelduck	38 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
Ruddy Shelduck	385 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
Gadwall	735 in the Wolonggang reservoir/Bayi reservoir area on the 4/10/2012 with 15 on Wolonggang reservoir, Miqian & 720 on Bayi reservoir, Wujiaqu. (500 metres)
Eurasian Wigeon	20 in the Wolonggang reservoir/Bayi reservoir area on the 4/10/2012 with five on Wolonggang reservoir, Miqian & 15 on Bayi reservoir, Wujiaqu. (500 metres)
Mallard	4701 in the Wujiaqu-Miqian area on the 4/10/2012. These involved one over the Shang Yuchang Baohuqu, Qingedahu, Wujiaqu; 150 on Wolonggang reservoir, Miqian & 4550 on Bayi reservoir, Wujiaqu. (500 metres)
Northern Shoveler	420 in the Wolonggang reservoir/Bayi reservoir area on the 4/10/2012 with 55 on Wolonggang reservoir, Miqian & 365 on Bayi reservoir, Wujiaqu. (500 metres)
Northern Pintail	220 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
Eurasian Teal	90 in the Wolonggang reservoir/Bayi reservoir area on the 4/10/2012 with 10 on Wolonggang reservoir, Miqian & 80 on Bayi reservoir, Wujiaqu. (500 metres)
Red-crested Pochard	44 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
Common Pochard	9, including seven adult males, at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
Ferruginous Duck NT	15 in the Wolonggang reservoir/Bayi reservoir area on the 4/10/2012 with 12 on Wolonggang reservoir, Miqian & three on Bayi reservoir, Wujiaqu. (500 metres)
Tufted Duck	39 in Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. These involved four males in flight over the Shang Yuchang Baohuqu, Qingedahu and 35 on Bayi reservoir. (500 metres)
Great Crested Grebe	5 in Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. These involved three on Qingedahu & two on Bayi reservoir. (500 metres)
Black-necked Grebe	9 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
Eurasian Spoonbill	9 first-years at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
Little Bittern	1 flightless first-winter with a broken wing near Qingedahu, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)

Grey Heron	71 in the Wujiagu-Miquan area on the 4/10/2012. These involved three at Wolonggang reservoir, Miquan, four at Qingedahu and 64 at Bayi reservoir (the latter two sites both in Wujiagu). (500 metres)
Great Egret	67 in the Wujiagu-Miquan area on the 4/10/2012. There were 13 at Wolonggang reservoir, Miquan while the other 54 were in Wujiagu with 23 near Qingedahu & 31 at Bayi reservoir. (500 metres)
Great Cormorant	1775 in the Wujiagu-Miquan area on the 4/10/2012. There were 110 at Wolonggang reservoir, Miquan while the other 1665 were in Wujiagu with 760 near Qingedahu & 905 at Bayi reservoir. (500 metres)
Black Kite	3 singles in the Wujiagu-Miquan area on the 4/10/2012. These involved one near Wolonggang reservoir, Miquan; another near Qingedahu and the final bird close to Bayi reservoir (the latter two sites both in Wujiagu). (500 metres)
Common Buzzard	1 near Bayi Reservoir, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
Common Kestrel	5 singles in the Wujiagu-Miquan area on the 4/10/2012. Sightings were near the Shang Yuchang Baohuqu & at Qingedahu itself, at Wolonggang reservoir, Miquan & near Bayi reservoir. (500 metres)
Merlin	1 near the Shang Yuchang Protection Station, Qingedahu, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
Peregrine Falcon	1 juvenile at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
European Water Rail	1 was heard near the Shang Yuchang Protection Station, Qingedahu, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
Common Moorhen	4 in the Wujiagu-Miquan area on the 4/10/2012. These involved one at Wolonggang reservoir, Miquan; one at Shang Yuchang Baohuqu, Qingedahu, and two at Bayi reservoir (the latter two sites both in Wujiagu). (500 metres)
Common Coot	545 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
Pied Avocet	138 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
Grey Plover	6 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
Eurasian Curlew NT	3 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
Spotted Redshank	30 on Wolonggang reservoir, Miquan on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
Common Greenshank	1 on Wolonggang reservoir, Miquan on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
Green Sandpiper	2 near the Shang Yuchang Protection Station, Qingedahu, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
Black-headed Gull	1580 in the Wujiagu-Miquan area on the 4/10/2012. There were just 10 at Wolonggang reservoir, Miquan while the other 1570 were in Wujiagu with 120 near Qingedahu & 1450 on Bayi reservoir. (500 metres)
Pallas's Gull	825 in the Wujiagu-Miquan area on the 4/10/2012. There were just 15 at Wolonggang reservoir, Miquan while the other 75 were in Wujiagu with 765 at or near Qingedahu & 45 on Bayi reservoir. (500 metres)
Yellow-legged Gull	612 in the Wujiagu-Miquan area on the 4/10/2012. There were just two at Wolonggang reservoir, Miquan while the other 610 were in Wujiagu with 580 at or near Qingedahu & 30 on Bayi reservoir. (500 metres)
Oriental Turtle Dove	2 near kilometre 22 on route S102 on route between Urumqi & Qingedahu, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. (525 metres)
Eurasian Collared Dove	3 singles in the Wujiagu-Miquan area on the 4/10/2012. These involved one near Wolonggang reservoir, Miquan; another near Qingedahu and the final bird close to Bayi reservoir (the latter two sites both in Wujiagu). (500 metres)
Common Kingfisher	1 near the Shang Yuchang Protection Station, Qingedahu, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
Red-tailed Shrike	1 adult male near the Shang Yuchang Protection Station, Qingedahu, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
Azure Tit	14 at Qingedahu, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. There were 12 near the Shang Yuchang Baohuqu and two more in Lotus Park. (500 metres)
White-crowned Penduline Tit	4 near the Shang Yuchang Protection Station, Qingedahu, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
Bearded Reedling	68 at Qingedahu, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. There were 48 (two singles, a flock of 17 and another of 29) near the Shang Yuchang Baohuqu and a single flock of 20 more close to the reservoir itself. (500 metres)
Asian Short-toed Lark	5 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. These involved a single bird that was only heard and a separate adult with three attendant juveniles. (500 metres)
Crested Lark	3 in Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. These involved one near the Shang Yuchang Baohuqu, Qingedahu & two at Bayi reservoir. (500 metres)
Barn Swallow	32 in the Wolonggang reservoir/Bayi reservoir area on the 4/10/2012 with seven over Wolonggang reservoir, Miquan & 25 over Bayi reservoir, Wujiagu. (500 metres)
Common Chiffchaff	18 near the Shang Yuchang Protection Station, Qingedahu, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. At least four separate birds were singing! (500 metres)
Hume's Leaf Warbler	2 were heard (& one of them even gave several bouts of song!) near the Shang Yuchang Protection Station, Qingedahu, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
Common Starling	55 in Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. These involved 45 around Qingedahu (with 25 near the Shang Yuchang Baohuqu & another 20 close to the lake itself) & 10 close to Bayi reservoir. (500 metres)
Common Blackbird	1 first-winter male near the Shang Yuchang Protection Station, Qingedahu, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
Black-throated Thrush	1 was heard near the Shang Yuchang Protection Station, Qingedahu, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
Bluethroat	2 near the Shang Yuchang Protection Station, Qingedahu, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	250 in the Wujiagu-Miquan area on the 4/10/2012. There were about 20 near Wolonggang reservoir, Miquan while the other 230 were in Wujiagu with 100 at each of the two sites we visited near Qingedahu & 30 near Bayi reservoir. (500 metres)
Western Yellow Wagtail	24 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
White Wagtail	4 in Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. These involved three near the Shang Yuchang Baohuqu, Qingedahu & one at Bayi reservoir. (500 metres)
Richard's Pipit	2 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
Water Pipit	6 in Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012, These involved five near Qingedahu (with three close to the Shang Yuchang Baohuqu & another two near the lake edge) & one at Bayi reservoir. (500 metres)
Brambling	3 separate birds were heard near the Shang Yuchang Protection Station, Qingedahu, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
European Greenfinch	4 near the Shang Yuchang Protection Station, Qingedahu, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres). Ten years ago this species was virtually confined to Yili but it continues to rapidly expand its range and in 2011 it was reported for the first time in Mulei (pers. obs) while in 2012 it was reported for the first time from Aksu, Wusu & Aqti districts for the first time!
Little Bunting	3 separate birds were heard, all flying west, near the Shang Yuchang Protection Station, Qingedahu, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
Reed Bunting	7 were heard near the Shang Yuchang Protection Station, Qingedahu, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)

Friday 5 October 2012. Most of the day around Shihezi.

GOU Jun picked me up at my hotel at 08h00 and the two of us headed to Shihezi. We travelled west via the expressway (route S30) and it took us just under two hours to reach this University city. Once there we went to the dumpling restaurant belonging to local birder, XU Jie. We had breakfast there, while viewing his most recent bird photographs, and then headed off north. We spent the rest of the day at two sites that I'd visited several times before – both are about a 30 minute drive north of Shihezi city. We spent the night in a cheap 2-star hotel, the Luzhu (=Lv Zhu) Binguan on the Shihezi-Mosuowan road (the 'Shimo gonglu') only about 300 metres from XU Jie's restaurant in Shihezi. This hotel is on the south-eastern side of the large road junction west of XU Jie's restaurant and its tel. no. is 0993 2013718. It's close to a large super market and numerous restaurants. A regular room here cost 120 yuan/night in October 2012 while mine had internet access and cost, 48 yuan more! All the rooms have en suite bathrooms with western toilets a wash basin and shower the latter supposedly with 24 hours hot water although once the autumn festival holiday was over and most guests had left the water was luke warm at best. There's also a TV, kettle and two beds in each room.

Site 1. Moguhu reservoir, Shihezi. (44°26.9'N., 85°57.3'E.). 370 metres. (11h05-16h45)

We spent just over five hours at this excellent, bird rich site – didn't see anything unusual but did have a great time with lots of birds to look at. We concentrated on the reservoir's more easily accessible eastern side.

This site is 147 kilometres northwest of Urumqi city centre.

Access to Moguhu.

We took route S204 north out of Shihezi town - this road eventually goes to Kalamayi (a place name that means 'Black Oil' in Mongolian). This road passes between Dachuangou reservoir - a medium-sized apparently fairly shallow reservoir that's easily visible off to the right (east) of this highway and Moguhu (literally 'Mushroom Lake' in Chinese). The latter isn't visible from route S204 but is best accessed by turning left (west) immediately opposite the turning (to the right) off to the well sign posted Dacuhangou tourist complex. This turning is at about kilometre post 76.2 and its then a drive of about another 1.7 kilometres down this straight unpaved dirt track to the embankment around Moguhu reservoir.

Ruddy Shelduck	625
Gadwall	420
Eurasian Wigeon	140
Mallard	3500
Northern Shoveler	160
Northern Pintail	250
Eurasian Teal	670
Common Pochard	9
Ferruginous Duck NT	4
Common Goldeneye	1
Great Crested Grebe	6
Black-necked Grebe	1
Black Stork	1
Grey Heron	42
Great Egret	163
Great Cormorant	4100
Osprey	1
Black Kite	1
Common Buzzard	1
Common Kestrel	1
Peregrine Falcon	1
Common Coot	55
Northern Lapwing	46
Common Ringed Plover	1
Kentish Plover	6
Eurasian Curlew NT	9
Dunlin	7
Black-headed Gull	550
Pallas's Gull	235
Heuglin's Gull	1
Yellow-legged Gull	140
Eurasian Collared Dove	1
European Roller NT	1
Western Jackdaw	15
Carrion Crow	20
Azure Tit	4
White-crowned Penduline Tit	1
Bearded Reedling	3
Asian Short-toed Lark	15
Crested Lark	20
Eurasian Skylark	7
Common Chiffchaff	1
Common Starling	1270
Common Blackbird	2
Black-throated Thrush	3
Northern Wheatear	2
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	1300
Western Yellow Wagtail	1
White Wagtail	5

Masked Wagtail <i>M. a. personata</i>	3
Water Pipit	9
Eurasian Chaffinch	1
Desert Finch	1

Site 2. Dachuangou reservoir, Shihezi. (44°24.9'N., 85°58.8'E.). 380 metres. (17h00-18h30)

We first viewed this reservoir from the main highway – close to kilometre post 84 on route S204. We then drove back north and away from Shihezi city before turning off right (east) towards a large tourist complex. We followed this road around to the northern and then the far, eastern side of the reservoir and scanned again from here before driving further on and exploring the reservoir's southern shore. The latter was where most of the birds were today – and, from my limited experience of this site, that seems to be where they usually are. However access to the southern shore is awkward – no doubt that's a large part of the reason why the birds are there!

Greylag Goose	73
Ruddy Shelduck	120
Gadwall	15
Mallard	20
Common Pochard	2
Duck sp.	50
Great Crested Grebe	3
Grey Heron	92
Great Egret	42
Great Cormorant	370
Black Kite	1
Common Kestrel	1
Black-headed Gull	320
Pallas's Gull	230
Heuglin's Gull	1
Yellow-legged Gull	410
Oriental Turtle Dove	1
Eurasian Collared Dove	54
Red-tailed Shrike	1
Azure Tit	2
Asian Short-toed Lark	1
Common Starling	110
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	50
Water Pipit	6

Weather

It was 22°C at Moguhu, Shihezi (370 metres) at 12h15. There was 2/8 cloud cover and it was very still with virtually no wind.

Greylag Goose	73 at Dachuangou reservoir, Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. (380 metres)
Ruddy Shelduck	745 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. 625 of these were on Moguhu with another 120 on neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)
Gadwall	435 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. 420 of these were on Moguhu with another 15 on neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)
Eurasian Wigeon	140 at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
Mallard	3520 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. 3500 of these were on Moguhu with another 20 on neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)
Northern Shoveler	160 at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
Northern Pintail	250, including a strikingly attractive cream-coloured leucistic bird, at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
Eurasian Teal	670 at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
Common Pochard	11 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. Nine of these were on Moguhu with another two on neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)
Ferruginous Duck NT	4 males at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
Common Goldeneye	1 at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
Duck sp.	50 very distant birds on Dachuangou reservoir, Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. (380 metres)
Great Crested Grebe	9 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. Six of these were on Moguhu with another three on neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)
Black-necked Grebe	1 at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
Black Stork	1 adult at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
Grey Heron	134 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. 42 of these were on Moguhu with another 92 on neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)
Great Egret	205 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. 163 of these were on Moguhu with another 42 on neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)
Great Cormorant	4470 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. 4100 of these were on Moguhu with another 370 on neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)
Osprey	1 at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
Black Kite	2 singles near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012 with sightings near Moguhu & at neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)
Common Buzzard	1 near Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
Common Kestrel	2 singles near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012 with sightings near Moguhu & at neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)
Peregrine Falcon	1 juvenile at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. It looked very much like a juvenile Barbary Falcon. (370 metres)
Common Coot	55 at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
Northern Lapwing	46 at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
Common Ringed Plover	1 was heard on three separate occasions at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
Kentish Plover	6 at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
Eurasian Curlew NT	9 at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)

Dunlin	7 first-winters at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
Black-headed Gull	870 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. 550 of these were on Moguhu with another 320 on neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)
Pallas's Gull	465 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. 235 of these were on Moguhu with another 230 on neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)



First-year Pallas's Gull

Heuglin's Gull	2 singles near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012 with a third calendar year at Moguhu & an adult at neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres). There are very few previous records of this taxa from Xinjiang – and none from elsewhere in China with the possible exception of Hong Kong.
Yellow-legged Gull	550 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. 140 of these were on Moguhu with another 410 on neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)
Oriental Turtle Dove	1 at Dachuangou reservoir, Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. (380 metres)
Eurasian Collared Dove	55 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. Just one of these was near Moguhu while the other 54, in flocks of 20 & 34, were at two separate sites near neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)
European Roller NT	1 juvenile near Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
Red-tailed Shrike	1 first-winter at Dachuangou reservoir, Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. (380 metres)
Western Jackdaw	15, with 20 Carrion Crows, on wires near the Shihezi exit off expressway S30 on the 5/10/2012. (530 metres)
Carrion Crow	20, with 15 Western Jackdaws, on wires near the Shihezi exit off expressway S30 on the 5/10/2012. (530 metres)
Azure Tit	6 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. Four of these were near Moguhu with the other two being close to neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)
White-crowned Penduline Tit	1 was heard at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
Bearded Reedling	3 at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. They were in the same field of sunflowers (!) as the large flock of Eurasian Tree Sparrows. (370 metres)
Asian Short-toed Lark	16 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. 15 of these (three singles and a flock of 12) flew south at Moguhu while another was heard over neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)
Crested Lark	20 in one flock at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
Eurasian Skylark	7 singles flew south at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
Common Chiffchaff	1 was heard at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
Common Starling	1500 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. About 100 were seen close to the Shihezi exit off expressway S30, another 1270 (a flock of 1000 that were feeding near the cattle plus flocks of 25, 30, 60, 65 & 90 that flew south) were near Moguhu while the remaining 110 were close to neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)
Common Blackbird	2 near Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
Black-throated Thrush	3 near Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
Northern Wheatear	2 at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	1600 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. A flock of at least 1300 birds were seen in a single field of over-ripe sunflowers besides Shihezi reservoir, another 50 were in a similar field near neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir & probably almost 300 others were encountered elsewhere during the day. (370 metres)
Western Yellow Wagtail	1 was heard at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
White Wagtail	5, including three 'Masked Wagtails' <i>M. a. personata</i> , flew south at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
Water Pipit	15 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. Nine of these flew south over Moguhu with another six around neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)
Eurasian Chaffinch	1 flew south at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
Desert Finch	1 flew south at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)

Saturday 6 October 2012. All day around Shihezi.

GOU Jun and I left the Luzhu (=Lv Zhu) hotel at 07h00 and drove straight back to the watch point on the eastern bank of Moguhu reservoir. Arriving there at 07h25 we spent just over four hours in that area before heading off around the reservoir.

After lunch at the Dachuangou tourist site we spent the afternoon around Dachuangou reservoir before returning to Shihezi for the evening. The two of us had dinner together with XU Jie and his wife.

Site 1. Moguhu reservoir, Shihezi. (44°26.9'N., 85°57.3'E.). 370 metres. (07h30-11h40 and again 16h30-18h30)

Greylag Goose	56
Ruddy Shelduck	685
Gadwall	1240
Eurasian Wigeon	255
Mallard	4700
Northern Shoveler	15
Northern Pintail	1125
Garganey	2
Eurasian Teal	750
Red-crested Pochard	46
Common Pochard	93
Ferruginous Duck NT	4
Tufted Duck	57
Great Crested Grebe	6
Grey Heron	41
Great Egret	50
Great Cormorant	4500
Black Kite	3
Common Kestrel	1
Common Coot	65
Northern Lapwing	1
Pacific Golden Plover	1
Kentish Plover	38
Eurasian Curlew NT	7
Dunlin	1
Black-headed Gull	1100
Pallas's Gull	200
Heuglin's Gull	2
Yellow-legged Gull	150
Baraba Gull	1
Common Tern	8
Oriental Turtle Dove	1
Eurasian Collared Dove	107
Azure Tit	1
Asian Short-toed Lark	2
Crested Lark	1
Eurasian Skylark	5
Common Chiffchaff	1
Common Starling	350
Common Blackbird	4
Black-throated Thrush	3
Northern Wheatear	1
Desert Wheatear	2
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	100
Black-throated Accentor	1
Western Yellow Wagtail	1
White Wagtail	20
Buff-bellied Pipit	1
Water Pipit	25
Brambling	1
Desert Finch	1
Yellowhammer or Pine Bunting	1
Reed Bunting	3
Lapland Longspur	1

Site 2. Dachuangou reservoir, Shihezi. (44°24.9'N., 85°58.8'E.). 380 metres. (12h50-16h15)

Common Pheasant	1
Tundra Bean Goose	6
Greylag Goose	170
Ruddy Shelduck	100
Gadwall	10
Mallard	50
Northern Pintail	5
Eurasian Teal	25
Red-crested Pochard	2
Common Pochard	5
Great Crested Grebe	2
Grey Heron	87
Great Egret	56
Great Cormorant	720
Osprey	1
Black-headed Gull	170
Pallas's Gull	250
Heuglin's Gull	1

Yellow-legged Gull	200
Stock Dove	1
Eurasian Collared Dove	70
Azure Tit	1
Asian Short-toed Lark	2
Eurasian Skylark	2
Common Starling	120
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	30
White Wagtail	2
Water Pipit	34
Desert Finch	1
Reed Bunting	11

Weather

It had rained hard overnight and was still cloudy (with 7/8 cover) when we arrived at Moguhu at almost 07h30. There was still the occasional spot of rain in the air early morning and it rained significantly harder for about 20 minutes from 11h00. 11°C at 07h30. No wind until mid-morning when a moderate north-westerly picked up. It remained over cast and cool all morning and actually felt quite cold in the wind.

Common Pheasant	1 at Dachuangou reservoir, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
Tundra Bean Goose	6 at Dachuangou reservoir, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
Greylag Goose	226 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 56 of these were at Moguhu & the other 170 at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)
Ruddy Shelduck	785 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 685 of these were at Moguhu & the other 100 at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)
Gadwall	1250 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 1240 of these were at Moguhu & the other 10 at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)
Eurasian Wigeon	255 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
Mallard	4750 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 4700 of these were at Moguhu & the other 50 at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)
Northern Shoveler	15 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
Northern Pintail	1130 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 1125 of these were at Moguhu & the other five at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)
Garganey	2 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
Eurasian Teal	775 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 750 of these were at Moguhu & the other 25 at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)
Red-crested Pochard	48 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 46 of these were at Moguhu & the other two at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)
Common Pochard	98 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 93 of these were at Moguhu & the other five at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)
Ferruginous Duck NT	4 males at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
Tufted Duck	57 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
Great Crested Grebe	8 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. Six of these were at Moguhu & the other two at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)
Grey Heron	128 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 41 of these were at Moguhu & the other 87 at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)
Great Egret	106 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 50 of these were at Moguhu & the other 56 at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)
Great Cormorant	5220 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 4500 of these were at Moguhu & the other 720 at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)



Osprey	1 at Dachuangou reservoir, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
Black Kite	3 juveniles at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
Common Kestrel	1 near Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
Common Coot	65 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
Northern Lapwing	1 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
Pacific Golden Plover	1 was heard at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
Kentish Plover	38, including a badly oiled bird, at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
Eurasian Curlew NT	7 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
Dunlin	1 was heard at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
Black-headed Gull	1270 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 1100 of these were at Moguhu in the early morning (& had most probably roosted overnight on the reservoir) & the other 170 at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)
Pallas's Gull	450 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 200 of these were at Moguhu & the other 2500 at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)
Heuglin's Gull	2 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012 with a second calendar year bird at Moguhu in the morning & an adult at Dachuangou reservoir in the early afternoon. (370-380 metres)



Digiscoped image of a Heuglin's Gull

Yellow-legged Gull	350 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 150 of these were at Moguhu & the other 200 at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)
Baraba Gull	1 adult showing characters of this form was at Moguhu Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. Photographed. (370 metres)(GOU Jun & Paul Holt)





Two digiscoped images of a putative *barabensis* Yellow-legged Gull

Common Tern	8, three adults & five first-years, at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
Stock Dove	1 at Dachuangou reservoir, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
Oriental Turtle Dove	1 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
Eurasian Collared Dove	177 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 107 of these were close to Moguhu while the other 70 were near Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)
Azure Tit	2 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012 - singles were heard near Moguhu in the early morning & close to Dachuangou reservoir midday. (370-380 metres)
Asian Short-toed Lark	4 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012 - with two at both Moguhu & Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)
Crested Lark	1 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
Eurasian Skylark	7 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012 with five at Moguhu & the other two at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)
Common Chiffchaff	1 was heard near Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
Common Starling	600 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 350 of these were at Moguhu, another 120 at Dachuangou reservoir & 130 between there and Shihezi town in the early evening. (370-380 metres)
Common Blackbird	4 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
Black-throated Thrush	3 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. The first bird was heard flying south at 07h48. (370 metres)
Northern Wheatear	1 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
Desert Wheatear	2 males, at least one of which was first-winter, at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	130 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 100 of these were at Moguhu & the other 300 at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)
Black-throated Accentor	1 was heard as it flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi about 30 minutes before sunrise on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
Western Yellow Wagtail	1 was heard at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
White Wagtail	22 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 20 of these were at Moguhu & the other two at Dachuangou reservoir. 18 birds were seen well enough to racially assign and 17 were personata <i>the only exception being a single alba at Moguhu in the late afternoon.</i> (370-380 metres)
Buff-bellied Pipit	1 was heard at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
Water Pipit	59 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 25 of these were at Moguhu & the other 34 at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)
Brambling	1 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi before dawn (at 07h55) on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
Desert Finch	2 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012 - with singles flying south near Moguhu before dawn and another heard over Dachuangou reservoir in the early afternoon. (370-380 metres)
Common Rosefinch	1 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi before dawn (at 07h55) on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
Yellowhammer or Pine Bunting	1 calling bird was heard as it flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi at 07h49 on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
Reed Bunting	14 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. Three of these were at Moguhu & the other 11 at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)
Lapland Longspur	1 calling bird was heard flying south at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)

Sunday 7 October 2012. Most of day in Shawan.

GOU Jun and I left the Luzhu (=Lv Zhu) hotel in Shihezi at 07h30 and drove west on expressway G30 to Shawan. We came off at exit 773 (?) – the one that's posted (in Chinese) to Shawan and Xigebi and then immediately turned left (south) on to new road, route X814. It was posted here as being 20 kilometres to Xigebi. We drove about 10 kilometres up this road, found some roadside bushes and adjacent fields and spent a short while exploring them. GOU Jun reckoned that he knew a better site further south so we soon drove on – but his site proved to be rather poor. Lacking inspiration and sufficient local knowledge GJ then drove us back to the Anjihai reservoirs close to Shawan town. Once we'd found out how to access them we spent a few hours there before heading back to Shihezi. GJ dropped me off at my hotel and headed back to Urumqi where he had an evening meeting to attend. Today was a rather frustrating day with more time spent driving than birding – a situation that's not unusual when birding with locals in China!

In all we visited three sites in Shawan county -

Site 1. Kilometre 10 on route X814 near Xigebi, Shawan. (44°12.3'N., 85°37.1'E.). 650 metres. (08h45-09h15)

Eurasian Sparrowhawk	1
Common Kestrel	1
Asian Short-toed Lark	2
Eurasian Skylark	50
Common Blackbird	2
Tawny Pipit	1
Tree or Olive-backed Pipit	1
Water Pipit	3
Rock Sparrow	2
Brambling	2
European Greenfinch	2
Eurasian Siskin	7
European Goldfinch	2
Eurasian Linnet	2
Yellowhammer or Pine Bunting	2

Site 2. Anjihai Reservoir No 1, Shawan. (44°23.1'N., 85°29.1'E.). (11h25-11h50). 435 metres.

From here it's 53.2kms @ 268° back to Kuitun town centre
43.1kms @ 96° to Shihezi

There are two Anjihai Reservoirs, an Upper and Lower one, that are referred to locally as No. 1 and No. 2. The lower reservoir is about three kilometres north of and can be clearly seen from the upper one. However the driving route between the two reservoirs is a little circuitous! The upper reservoir, Anjihai Shuiku No. 1, is the larger of the two. The best access is from Shawan town. When heading east turn left (north) off G312 at San Dao He Ling Chang about 20 metres before Km post 4353 (& 1.5 kilometres east of the roundabout in the centre of Shawan). You immediately pass under a very attractive ornamental archway and about 200 metres further on turn left again. This smaller road soon heads out of Shawan and remains straight for a couple of kilometres until you come to the first village where there are two obvious zigzags (first right, then left). Another 100 metres after the second right angle turn left in to Daquan xiang. The road continues right through the centre of this small village and, after about another 2kms, becomes un-paved. You can then see the embankment of Anjihai Reservoir No. 1 in front and to the left. In all the reservoir involves a drive of 11.1kms from the roundabout in the centre of Shawan.

Remarkably the reservoir guard was able to remember me – and could recollect that we'd seen a rare bird here on our previous visit. Indeed we had – we'd stumbled across Xinjiang's first Parasitic Jaeger (Arctic Skua) on our previous visit. The guard's memory was impressive to say the least – as that was just over six years ago on 13 September 1997!

Taiga or Tundra Bean Goose	4
Greylag Goose	495
Red-crested Pochard	1
Ferruginous Duck NT	1
Duck sp.	50
Great Crested Grebe	2
Grey Heron	2
Great Cormorant	2
Common Kestrel	1
Common Coot	45
Common Crane	6
Eurasian Collared Dove	133
Asian Short-toed Lark	20
Water Pipit	1
Yellowhammer or Pine Bunting	1

Site 3. Anjihai reservoir No. 2, Shawan. (44°24.6'N., 85°31.3'E.). (12h15-13h50). 420 metres.

Taiga or Tundra Bean Goose	48
Greylag Goose	320
Duck sp.	10
Great Crested Grebe	3
Grey Heron	1
Great Egret	23
Hen Harrier	1
Common Coot	10
Common Crane	42
Eurasian Collared Dove	10
Azure Tit	1
Bearded Reedling	19
Asian Short-toed Lark	2
Crested Lark	1
Common Chiffchaff	10
Hume's Leaf Warbler	1
Lesser Whitethroat	1

Black-throated Thrush	2
White Wagtail	2 <i>alba</i>
Water Pipit	5
Eurasian Siskin	12
Reed Bunting	4

Weather

It had rained hard overnight but had stopped at about 02h00. There was moderate (4/8) cloud cover when we left Shihezi – with the stars being clearly visible where there wasn't any cloud. It was cool, but unfortunately no temperature readings were taken, and windless.

Taiga or Tundra Bean Goose	52 at the Anjihai reservoirs, Shawan on the 7/10/2012 with four at Anjihai reservoir No. 1 & 48 at Res. No. 2. (420-435 metres)
Greylag Goose	815 at the Anjihai reservoirs, Shawan on the 7/10/2012 with 495 at Anjihai reservoir No. 1 & 320 at Res. No. 2. (420-435 metres)
Red-crested Pochard	1 at Anjihai Res. No. 1 on the 7/10/2012. (435 metres)
Ferruginous Duck NT	1 at Anjihai Res. No. 1 on the 7/10/2012. (435 metres)
Duck sp.	60 at the Anjihai reservoirs, Shawan on the 7/10/2012 with 50 at Anjihai reservoir No. 1 & 10 at Res. No. 2. (420-435 metres)
Great Crested Grebe	5 at the Anjihai reservoirs, Shawan on the 7/10/2012 with two at Anjihai reservoir No. 1 & three at Res. No. 2. (420-435 metres)
Grey Heron	3 at the Anjihai reservoirs, Shawan on the 7/10/2012 with two at Anjihai reservoir No. 1 & one at Res. No. 2. (420-435 metres)
Great Egret	23 at Anjihai reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (420 metres)
Great Cormorant	2 at Anjihai Res. No. 1 on the 7/10/2012. (435 metres)
Hen Harrier	1 adult male at Anjihai reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (420 metres)
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	1 at kilometre post 10 on route X814 near Xigebe, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (650 metres)
Common Kestrel	2 singles in Shawan on the 7/10/2012 - the first was near Xigebe & the second close to Anjihai reservoir No. 1. (435 & 650 metres)
Common Coot	55 at the Anjihai reservoirs, Shawan on the 7/10/2012 with 45 at Anjihai reservoir No. 1 & 10 at Res. No. 2. (420-435 metres)
Common Crane	48 at the Anjihai reservoirs, Shawan on the 7/10/2012 with six at Anjihai reservoir No. 1 & 42 at Res. No. 2. (420-435 metres)
Eurasian Collared Dove	143 at & around the Anjihai reservoirs, Shawan on the 7/10/2012 with 133 near reservoir No. 1 & another 10 at Res. No. 2. (420-435 metres)
Azure Tit	1 was heard near Anjihai reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (420 metres)
Bearded Reedling	19 near Anjihai reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (420 metres)
Asian Short-toed Lark	24 in Shawan on the 7/10/2012 with two near Xigebe, a flock of 20 over Anjihai reservoir No. 1 & a pair at Anjihai res. No. 2 (420-650 metres)
Crested Lark	1 was heard near Anjihai reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (420 metres)
Eurasian Skylark	50 at kilometre post 10 on route X814 near Xigebe, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (650 metres)
Common Chiffchaff	10 near Anjihai reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (420 metres)
Hume's Leaf Warbler	2 singles near Shawan on the 7/10/2012 - one close to Xigebe & the other at Anjihai res. No. 2. (420 & 650 metres)
Lesser Whitethroat	1 was heard near Anjihai reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (420 metres)
Common Starling	20 between Shihezi & Shawan on the 7/10/2012.
Common Blackbird	2 at kilometre post 10 on route X814 near Xigebe, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (650 metres)
Black-throated Thrush	2 near Anjihai reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (420 metres)
Eversmann's Redstart	1 near Anjihai reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (420 metres)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	50 in & around Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (420-650 metres)
Rock Sparrow	2 near kilometre post 10 on route X814 near Xigebe, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (650 metres)
White Wagtail	4 at the Anjihai reservoirs, Shawan on the 7/10/2012 with two over Anjihai reservoir No. 1 & two <i>alba</i> at Res. No. 2. (420-435 metres)
Tawny Pipit	1 at kilometre post 10 on route X814 near Xigebe, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. Probably a late autumn date. (650 metres)
Tree or Olive-backed Pipit	1 at kilometre post 10 on route X814 near Xigebe, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (650 metres)
Water Pipit	9 near Shawan on the 7/10/2012 - three at Xigebe, one at Anjihai res. No. 1 & five near Anjihai res. No. 2. (420-650 metres)
Brambling	2 singles flew south at kilometre post 10 on route X814 near Xigebe, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (650 metres)
European Greenfinch	2 at kilometre post 10 on route X814 near Xigebe, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (650 metres)
Eurasian Siskin	9 near Shawan on the 7/10/2012 with a flock of seven at Xigebe & a flock of 12 near Anjihai res. No. 2. (420 & 650 metres)
European Goldfinch	2 at kilometre post 10 on route X814 near Xigebe, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (650 metres)
Eurasian Linnet	2 at kilometre post 10 on route X814 near Xigebe, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (650 metres)
Yellowhammer or Pine Bunting	3 near Shawan on the 7/10/2012 with 2 singles flying south near Xigebe & another near Anjihai res. No. 1. (435 & 650 metres)
Reed Bunting	4 at Anjihai reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (420 metres)

Monday 8 October 2012. All day near Shihezi.

I left the Luzhu (=Lv Zhu) hotel at 07h15 with a taxi driven by a friend of XU Jie's – a Mr LIU (mobile 13677551911). I had agreed to pay him 400 yuan for a full day (07h00-19h00) in the Moguhu-Dachuangou area and had also liaised with him about taking me back to Urumqi airport the following day.

Site 1. Moguhu reservoir, Shihezi. (44°26.9'N., 85°57.3'E.). 370 metres. (08h05-14h00 and again 15h15-16h15)

We initially drove to the regular viewing point – the one on the elevated embankment right at the end of the access road. We parked up there and I spent a short while watching the visible migration of passerines etc. as they flew south. Today was probably a fairly decent movement yb Moguhu standards. After about 1.5 hours here I gradually wandered north up the

reservoir's eastern embankment – scanning the reservoir and continuing to watch out for visible migrants. After about 1.4 kilometres, or so, I headed off the embankment and walked about 150 metres east, past a small farmer's bungalow, to another small, driveable track that runs north-south parallel to the reservoir's embankment. I continued to walk north here – there's a decent shelter belt of fairly large trees and bushes along the eastern side of this road and it held a modest array of migrant passerines. Black-throated Thrushes were particularly well represented. I ended up walking perhaps another 700 metres – and about 200-300 metres beyond a recently fenced compound on the right. I then called Mr Liu and he duly came and picked me up. It turns out that I'd walked about 2.1 kilometres north up this track from the place where I'd left the taxi in the morning. The two of us then headed for lunch – at a noodle restaurant that GOU Jun and me had visited a few days earlier in the tiny village of Dachuangou. The Xinjiang ban mian (dry noodles) were excellent. After that we returned to the western side of Moguhu and spent a short while there. Unfortunately there was a lot of disturbance here and few birds so we returned to the hotel early.

The regular site at Moguhu is exactly 23 kilometres from my hotel in Shihezi and the drive between the two takes about 25 minutes.

Greylag Goose	35
Common Shelduck	27
Ruddy Shelduck	835
Gadwall	420
Eurasian Wigeon	30
Mallard	500
Northern Shoveler	5
Northern Pintail	190
Eurasian Teal	50
Red-crested Pochard	8
Common Pochard	3
Tufted Duck	13
Duck sp.	500
Grey Heron	30
Great Egret	43
Hen Harrier	1
Common Buzzard	1
Common Coot	45
Common Crane	2
Eurasian Curlew NT	11
Black-headed Gull	2175
Relict Gull VU	1
Pallas's Gull	817
Yellow-legged Gull	200
Common Tern	4
Stock Dove	11
Eurasian Collared Dove	14
Eurasian Hoopoe	1
Great Tit	4
Azure Tit	16
White-crowned Penduline Tit	1
Bearded Reedling	15
[Greater Short-toed Lark	10?]
Asian Short-toed Lark	6
Crested Lark	16
Eurasian Skylark	10
Horned Lark	1
Barn Swallow	3
Cetti's Warbler	1
Common Chiffchaff	24
Hume's Leaf Warbler	5
Lesser Whitethroat	1
Goldcrest	3
Common Starling	1355
Common Blackbird	7
Black-throated Thrush	153
Eversmann's Redstart	3
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	150
Black-throated Accentor	1
Western Yellow Wagtail	5 including 2 <i>thunbergi</i>
White Wagtail	18 including 15 Masked Wagtail <i>M. a. personata</i> & just one alba
Buff-bellied Pipit	2
Water Pipit	146
Eurasian Chaffinch	3
Brambling	11
European Greenfinch	19
European Goldfinch	2
Desert Finch	3
Pine Bunting	24
Little Bunting	1
Reed Bunting	7

Duck sp.	300
Grey Heron	12
Great Egret	68
Black-headed Gull	300
Pallas's Gull	140
Yellow-legged Gull	200

Weather

It was cold (4°C) at Moguhu at dawn. There was no wind and very little (1/8) cloud cover but a modest amount of mist over the water first thing. There was a very light south-south-easterly breeze mid-afternoon.

Greylag Goose	35 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Common Shelduck	27 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Ruddy Shelduck	835 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Gadwall	420 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Eurasian Wigeon	30 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Mallard	500 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Northern Shoveler	5 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Northern Pintail	190 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Eurasian Teal	50 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Red-crested Pochard	8 near Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Common Pochard	3 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Tufted Duck	13 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Duck sp.	800 near Shihezi on the 8/10/2012 with 500 on Moguhu & 300 on Dachuangou. (370-380 metres)
Grey Heron	42 near Shihezi on the 8/10/2012 with 30 on Moguhu & 12 on Dachuangou. (370-380 metres)
Great Egret	111 near Shihezi on the 8/10/2012 with 43 on Moguhu & 68 on Dachuangou. (370-380 metres)
Hen Harrier	1 juvenile at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Common Buzzard	1 juvenile at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Common Coot	45 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Common Crane	2 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Eurasian Curlew NT	11 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Black-headed Gull	2175 near Shihezi on the 8/10/2012 with this number, 2175, being counted on Moguhu in the very early morning. It appeared that they had roosted here overnight & many were heading off even by 08h30 - the majority flying east, towards Dachuangou. The 300 that were on Dachuangou were very probably part of this early morning flock. (370-380 metres)
Relict Gull VU	1 first-winter with a flock of Pallas's & Yellow-legged Gulls at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Pallas's Gull	957 near Shihezi on the 8/10/2012 with 817 on Moguhu & 140 on Dachuangou. (370-380 metres)
Yellow-legged Gull	400 near Shihezi on the 8/10/2012 with 200 on both Moguhu & Dachuangou. (370-380 metres)
Common Tern	4, two adults and two juveniles, at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Stock Dove	11 flew purposefully south at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Eurasian Collared Dove	14 near Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Eurasian Hoopoe	1 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Great Tit	4, two pairs, at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Azure Tit	16, eight pairs, at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
White-crowned Penduline Tit	1 was heard at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Bearded Reedling	15 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
[Greater Short-toed Lark	10 birds, possibly this species, flew high to the south at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)]
Asian Short-toed Lark	6 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Crested Lark	16, 14 of which flew south as singles, pairs and parties of three, at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Eurasian Skylark	10 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Horned Lark	1 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Barn Swallow	3 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Cetti's Warbler	1 calling bird was heard at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Common Chiffchaff	24 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Hume's Leaf Warbler	5 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Lesser Whitethroat	1 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Goldcrest	3 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Common Starling	1335 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. The flock of about 1000 birds was again in the field with the cattle and goats while 355 others flew south. The latter were in flocks of 20, 20, 25, 30, 45, 50, 65 & 100 birds. (370 metres)
Common Blackbird	10 at & around Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Black-throated Thrush	153 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. 130 of these flew south in the early morning while 23 were still in the neighbouring shelter belt midday.(370 metres)
Eversmann's Redstart	3 singles at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	160 around Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. Most of these were at Moguhu where several small flocks were seen purposefully flying south in the early morning. (360-400 metres)
Black-throated Accentor	1 was heard in the shelter belt at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Western Yellow Wagtail	5, including 2 <i>thunbergi</i> , at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
White Wagtail	18, including 15 Masked Wagtail M. a. personata & just one <i>nominata</i> alba at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Buff-bellied Pipit	2 were seen well on the reservoir edge at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Water Pipit	146 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. 119 of these flew south in the early morning. (370 metres)
Eurasian Chaffinch	3 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Brambling	11 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
European Greenfinch	19 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. Most were in the shelter belt but at least five flew purposefully south. (370 metres)
European Goldfinch	2 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Desert Finch	3 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)

Pine Bunting	24 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. They were all singles, pairs or flocks of only up to three birds. (370 metres)
Little Bunting	1 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Reed Bunting	7 singles flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)

Tuesday 9 October 2012. Morning near Shihezi, afternoon drove to Urumqi airport.

Mr LIU picked me up outside the Luzhu (=Lv Zhu) hotel at 07h15 and the two of us headed back to Moguhu. We spent the morning and early afternoon there before heading back to Urumqi airport. I'd previously agreed a fare of 350 yuan for this with Mr Liu – and agreed that I'd also pay the expressway tolls (an additional 70 yuan).

Mr LIU and I left Moguhu at 12h30, stopped for some dumplings at XU Jie's restaurant in central Shihezi, and then headed back to Urumqi airport.

Qingyu flew from Beijing to Urumqi that afternoon and her flight was as follows - China Southern CZ6912 departed Beijing at 12h40 and was scheduled to arrive in Urumqi at 17h00. I met her at the terminal and we took the hotel's transfer bus to the Tianyuan Hotel, 1341 Yingbin Road, Urumchi, Xinjiang a somewhat substandard, government owned 5-star hotel within walking distance of the airport.

Note that I had half expected to have seen White-headed Duck during the few days that I had spent at Moguhu – but I didn't. Moreover I saw very, very few diving ducks here this autumn – far fewer than on any of my previous visits. Note also that GOU Jun (pers. comm. 6/10/2012) seemed to think that that were having a difficult time in Xinjiang at the moment. White-headed Duck has usually left the best known and most visited Chinese breeding site (Xi Shan on the edge of Urumqi city) by mid-September but in 2012 it bred there very late in the season and still had only tiny fledglings by then. Moreover the Kuitun breeding site was abandoned in summer 2012 as it totally dried up!

Sun rise today was at 08h22.

Moguhu reservoir, Shihezi. (44°26.9'N., 85°57.3'E.), 370 metres. (07h45-12h30).

Weather

Another very nice autumnal day. The sky was immaculately clear (0/8 cloud) and there was hardly any wind (just the lightest of a south-westerly in the very early morning). It was colder however being just 3°C at Moguhu before sunrise.

Greylag Goose	44 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Ruddy Shelduck	50 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Gadwall	Present but not counted at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Eurasian Wigeon	Present but not counted at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Mallard	Present but not counted at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Northern Pintail	Present but not counted at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Eurasian Teal	Present but not counted at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Duck sp.	Present but not counted at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Great Crested Grebe	6 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Grey Heron	32 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Great Egret	57 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Great Cormorant	4500 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. 675 were counted leaving Moguhu and flying east, perhaps to Dachuangou, in the period between 20 and 10 minutes before official sunrise (08h00-08h10) and no sooner had it finished than there was a similar movement of Black-headed Gulls! (370 metres)
Long-legged Buzzard	1 about three kilometres west of Urumqi airport on 9/10/2012. (615 metres)
Merlin	1 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Common Coot	15 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Black-headed Gull	1500 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. At least 600 of these headed high to the east, perhaps to Dachuangou, in the 15 minute period immediately after official sunrise (08h10-08h25) (370 metres)
Pallas's Gull	340 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Yellow-legged Gull	30 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Caspian Tern	1 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Eurasian Collared Dove	4 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Common Kingfisher	1 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Carrion Crow	2 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Great Tit	2 singles in the shelter belt at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Azure Tit	7 near Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Asian Short-toed Lark	6 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Crested Lark	6 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Common Chiffchaff	15 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Hume's Leaf Warbler	5 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Lesser Whitethroat	1 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Common Starling	970 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. I saw just three flocks today and these contained 100, 120 & 650 birds. (370 metres)
Common Blackbird	6 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Black-throated Thrush	65 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Eversmann's Redstart	3 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. At least one of these, a presumed adult male, was different to those seen yesterday. (370 metres)
Desert Wheatear	1 first-winter male at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	100 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)

Black-throated Accentor	3 singles in the shelter belt at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
White Wagtail	1 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Water Pipit	101 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Eurasian Chaffinch	15 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Brambling	34 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
European Greenfinch	23 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Eurasian Siskin	1 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. All encounters were with flock of between one & nine birds. (370 metres)
Eurasian Linnet	3 singles flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Desert Finch	1 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Pine Bunting	21 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. I had ten encounters with flocks of between one & four birds. (370 metres)
Meadow Bunting	1 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
Reed Bunting	11 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)

Wednesday 10 October 2012. Am flight Urumqi to Kashi. Rest of day looking for Rufous-naped Tit.

We met GOU Jun at Urumqi airport and flew from there down to Kashi (Kashgar) on China Eastern flight MU5285. This flight was scheduled to leave Urumqi at 07h55 and to arrive in Kashi at 09h40 and it duly took off at 08h03. It took 1 hour 28 minutes to reach Kashi. Once there we met our driver, Mr YAN, who GOU Jun knew and had spent a lot of time with when he, LIU Yang and LEI Jinyu were searching for Large-billed Reed Warbler this summer. Mr YAN's mobile phone number is – 13657552755. He speaks fluent Uighur, has his own four-wheel drive vehicle, seems to know and have visited all the main birding sites in Kashi district and is cheap. Mr YAN charges 500 yuan/day plus road tolls and petrol. He lives in Kashi I'm also expected to pay for his food and his hotel room if we leave that city – but he will share a room with GOU Jun.

Kashi airport. (39°32.2'N., 76°00.6'E.). 1390 metres

The airport is to the northeast of Kashi - a city that now has about 350,000 inhabitants!

Sun rise and sun set times in Kashi on 10 October 2012

Sun rise	09h01
Sun set	20h28

We unpacked our gear outside the airport terminal and immediately head off to GOU Jun's site for Rufous-naped Tit. Our route took us southwest of Kashi and the drive was predicted to take about two hours if we didn't stop. We initially travelled on the old Silk Road – route G314 and the road that leads up to Tashikuergan and from there to the Kunjerab Pass and eventually Pakistan.

Departed Kashi airport	10h15	1390 metres	
Kezile river	10h30	1330 metres	
Baliqiao	10h33	1330 metres	
Shufu xian			Km 1485 on G314
Stopped for lunch in Wupaer		1470 metres	
Saierya Big Bridge	12h00	1500 metres	Km 1532 on G314
Turning off right to Aoyitake	12h26	1785 metres	
This minor road (X392) leads up to the Kizilsu Krygyz Glacier Park and is a dead-end.			
Aoyitake zhen		2055 metres	Km 12 on route X392
Entrance gate to the Aoyitake Forest Park (Kizilsu Krygyz Glacier Park)	13h07	2575 metres	

Car park at Aoyitake Forest Park. (38°53.8'N., 75°12.2'E.). 2750 metres. (13h30-18h15).

Our destination was the tourist site of Aoyitake (=Aoyitage) a site that is often now known as the Kizilsu Krygyz Glacier Park (<http://www.zktip.com>) and the drive, via Shufu town, did indeed take us just over two hours.

We returned to Kashi that evening and spent the night in Kashi's best hotel – the excellent and highly recommended Kashi Yinruilin International Hotel, 160 Jianshe Lu, Kashi (Tel. +86 998 2655555 and Fax. +86 998 2912000) where our rooms cost 398 yuan/night including two breakfasts/room.

Weather

Another very nice autumnal day. The sky was immaculately clear (0/8 cloud) all day and there was hardly any wind. According to the tow in-flight announcements it was either 12 or 14°C in Kashi when we landed at 09h30.

Eurasian Woodcock	1 bird, possibly this species, was flushed at Aoyitake Forest Park, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (2760 metres)
Eurasian Collared Dove	40 between Kashi, Shufu town & at Aoyitake, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (1360-1430 [40 birds] metres)
Common Magpie	15 between Kashi, Shufu town & at Aoyitake, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. The first birds were seen right on the edge of Kashi town. (1350 [2 birds], 1360, 2220, 2455, 2540 metres)
Red-billed Chough	15 between Aoyitake town and the Kizilsu Krygyz Glacier Park, Aoyitake, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (2460- <i>ca.</i> 3000 metres)
Carrion Crow	30 between Kashi, Shufu town & at Aoyitake, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. The first birds were seen right on the edge of Kashi town while quite a few more were seen in Aoyitake town. (1330 [10 birds], 1560, 1740 [8 birds], 2055 [2 birds], 2380 metres)
Rufous-naped Tit	5, two pairs & a single, at Aoyitake Forest Park, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (2760 metres)
Azure Tit	1 was heard at a road checkpoint between Saierya Big Bridge & the turning off route G314 to Aoyitake, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (1740 metres)
White-browed Tit-warbler	6, three pairs, at Aoyitake Forest Park, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (2670-2760 metres)
Common Chiffchaff	2 at Aoyitake Forest Park, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (2760 metres)
[Mountain Chiffchaff	1 bird probably this species at Aoyitake Forest Park, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (2760 metres)]
Hume's Leaf Warbler	6 between an area of scrub north of Aoyitake town and Aoyitake Forest Park/the Kizilsu Krygyz Glacier Park, Aoyitake, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (1800 [2 birds] & 2760 [4 birds] metres)
Goldcrest	1 at Aoyitake Forest Park, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (2760 metres)
Eurasian Wren	2 at Aoyitake Forest Park, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (GOU Jun)(2760 metres)
Common Blackbird	2 at Aoyitake Forest Park, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (2760 metres)
Black-throated Thrush	15 at Aoyitake Forest Park, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (2760 metres)
Eversmann's Redstart	2 at Aoyitake Forest Park, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (2760 metres)
Black Redstart	1 between Aoyitake town and Aoyitake Forest Park/the Kizilsu Krygyz Glacier Park, Aoyitake, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (2210 metres)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	50 between Kashi, Shufu town & Aoyitake Forest Park, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (1390-2760 metres)
Eurasian Chaffinch	1 female at Aoyitake Forest Park, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (2760 metres)
Red-mantled Rosefinch	3 separate female large rosefinches at Aoyitake Forest Park, Shufu on the 10/10/2012 were probably this species. None of the three were seen particularly well. (2760 metres)
White-winged Grosbeak	1 was heard at Aoyitake Forest Park, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (2780 metres)
Rock Bunting	2 at Aoyitake Forest Park, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (2760 metres)

Thursday 11 October 2012. All day southeast of Kashi.

GOU Jun, driver Mr Yan and I spent all day at a small number of sites southeast and east of Kashi. We spent the night back at the Kashi Yinruilin International Hotel.

We had the hotel's excellent buffet breakfast as soon as it started at 08h00 and left the Kashi Yinruilin International Hotel at 08h55. We drove southeast of Kashi, taking route S315 through Shule town and turned off the main road a couple of kilometres before Tazihong xiang and after a drive of almost half-an-hour (at 09h25). Note that route S315 is the main Xining to Kashi road. Our first site of the day Tazihong reservoir would be extremely difficult to find without local knowledge – fortunately for me GOU Jun and Mr Yan had such knowledge!

Site 1. Tazihong reservoir, Shule. (39°19.0'N., 76°11.8'E.). 1265 metres. (09h40-13h45).

An excellent site – and by far the best of the day with just under 7000 water birds on it – mostly Eurasian Coot (2750) but also decent numbers of Gadwall (930), Mallard (870), Eurasian Teal (880) and Common Pochard (555).

We birded our way about half-way around the reservoir, starting in the north-western corner of the reservoir where a shallow, but fast flowing, river enters it. The reservoir is roughly rectangular in shape with the long east-west axis being about about 3.5 kilometres and the shorter north-south one probably being just under two. This river is perhaps the only supply of water in to this fairly large reservoir. There's a small stand of Asian Poplars towards the reservoir's western end while much of the western and southern ends of the reservoir also have extensive areas of Hongliu (Red Willow). The areas of cultivation along the reservoir's northern side are almost wholly cotton and there's a small fish pond off the north-eastern corner. An embankment with a perfectly driveable dirt track on it runs down the reservoir's northern and eastern sides and there's a small building surrounded by some trees where the small canalised outflow is about half-way down this eastern side. The reservoir's deepest portion is close to this outflow in the north-eastern section while the southern shoreline is shallow and flat and appears to have extensive deposits of silt. After just over four hours of birding here we drove out the same way that we entered.

There are quite probably very few fish in this reservoir – and hence the virtual absence of Great Cormorants, Pallas's Gulls and fishermen with their nuisance boats!

There's a historic record of White Stork from Tazihong reservoir (GOU Jun pers. comm.).

Common Pheasant	7
Ruddy Shelduck	20
Gadwall	930
Eurasian Wigeon	173
Mallard	870
Northern Shoveler	72
Northern Pintail	225
Garganey	1
Eurasian Teal	880
Red-crested Pochard	51

Common Pochard	555
Ferruginous Duck NT	17
Tufted Duck	74
Great Crested Grebe	121
Horned Grebe	3
Black-necked Grebe	41
Grey Heron	7
Great Egret	13
Great Cormorant	14
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	1
Common Kestrel	1
Peregrine Falcon	1
Common Coot	2750
Black-winged Stilt	1
Black-tailed Godwit	1
Spotted Redshank	20
Common Greenshank	13
Green Sandpiper	1
Stint sp.	12
Dunlin	12
Black-headed Gull	55
Pallas's Gull	10
Yellow-legged Gull	2
Laughing Dove	1
Common Kingfisher	1
Rook	1
Carrion Crow	90
Hooded Crow	3
Azure Tit	4
Asian Short-toed Lark	8
Crested Lark	25
Barn Swallow	1
Hume's Leaf Warbler	2
Desert Whitethroat	2
Common Starling	1110
Black-throated Thrush	8
Saxaul Sparrow	3
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	50
Water Pipit	18
Eurasian Chaffinch	1
Eurasian Linnet	1
Desert Finch	1
Reed Bunting	11

Leaving this site at 13h45 we drove back to the main road (route S315) and turned left, continuing to drive away from Kashi. We drove through Tazihong xiang and stopped again after only about ten minutes.

Site 2. Yapuquan wetland, Shule. (39°08.5'N., 76°12.9'E.). 1265 metres. (14h20-15h25).

This very small wetland is at about kilometre 2982 on route S315. There are small reed beds either side of the busy highway – but it was early afternoon, hot and remarkably quiet. I'm sure that this would be a decent early morning site in early summer.

Mr Yan, our driver, dropped us off here and continued on away from Kashi to the next settlement where he had lunch. Had he not driven away we would have spent much less time at this rather bird less site. As it was we stayed for just over an hour – and then headed back to Tazihong reservoir as GOU Jun had mislaid part of this telescope lens. Fortunately we were able to find it quickly!

Common Pheasant	1
Corvid sp.	450
Azure Tit	2
Common Chiffchaff	2
Eurasian Wren	1
Common Starling	20
Black-throated Thrush	1
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	20

Site 3. Dong Fang Hong reservoir and adjacent fishponds, Shule. (39°21.3'N., 76°04.4'E.). 1265 metres. (16h20-16h30).

This site is only about three kilometres south of Shule town and is accessed by turning west off the highway at about kilometre 1354. This was the site where Xinjiang's only Glossy Ibis was photographed in May 2011 - but there were remarkably few birds on the small reservoir or even around the fishponds today. GOU Jun had visited this site in summer 2012 and had seen a 'large number' of Black-crowned Night Herons and gulls. There are some extensive reed beds here but today the small (perhaps 800 x 800 metre) reservoir had many more fishermen than it did birds!

Great Crested Grebe	2
Black-crowned Night Heron	1
Green Sandpiper	1
Pallas's Gull	2
Eurasian Collared Dove	1

Crested Lark	2
Common Starling	20
Pied Wheatear	1
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	50
Pallas's Bunting	
Reed Bunting	1

Site 4. Yalang reservoir, Kashi. (39°29.0'N., 76°05.5'E.). 1300 metres. (17h15-18h30).

This site is right on the edge of Kashi city and is only about a 10-15 minute drive from the Kashi Yinruilin International Hotel. Other than a decent number of corvids the reservoir itself held a disappointingly small number of birds. To access the reservoir we drove past the much smaller, probably deeper, and definitely today totally bird less Wapu reservoir (39°28.2'N., 76°03.4'E.). This reservoir is very close to a recently constructed power station.

Mallard	280
Grey Heron	11
Great Cormorant	15
Common Kestrel	1
Black-headed Gull	310
Pallas's Gull	72
Common Magpie	1
Western Jackdaw	1
Rook	650
Carrion Crow	40
Azure Tit	1
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	40

Weather

The sky was fairly cloudy (5/8 cover) in the early morning but this soon burnt off and it had all gone by 13h00. There was no wind in the early morning and it was 13°C at Tazihong reservoir at 10h00. The temperature peaked at 23°C at the Yapuquan wetland at 15h30.

Common Pheasant	8 in Shule on the 11/10/2012 with seven seen at Tazihong reservoir & one heard at the Yapuquan wetland. (1270 metres)
Ruddy Shelduck	20 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Gadwall	930 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Eurasian Wigeon	173 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Mallard	1150 in the Kashi-Shule area on the 11/10/2012. 870 of these were on Tazihong reservoir, Shule with another 280 on Yalang reservoir, Kashi. (metres)
Northern Shoveler	72 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Northern Pintail	225 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Garganey	1 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Eurasian Teal	880 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Red-crested Pochard	51 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Common Pochard	555 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. A remarkable 520 (94%) of these were males! (1270 metres)
Ferruginous Duck NT	17 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Tufted Duck	74 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Great Crested Grebe	123 in Shule on the 11/10/2012. 121 of these were on Tazihong reservoir and two more on Dong Fang Hong reservoir. (metres)
Horned Grebe	3 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Black-necked Grebe	41 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Black-crowned Night Heron	1 was heard at Dong Fang Hong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Grey Heron	18 in the Kashi-Shule area on the 11/10/2012. Seven of these were at Tazihong reservoir, Shule with another 1 besides Yalang reservoir, Kashi. (metres)
Great Egret	13 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Great Cormorant	29 in the Kashi-Shule area on the 11/10/2012. 14 of these were at Tazihong reservoir, Shule with another 15 besides Yalang reservoir, Kashi. (metres)
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	1 flew west at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Common Kestrel	4 singles in the Kashi-Shule area on the 11/10/2012. These included singles near Shule town, near Tazihong reservoir, Shule & near Yalang reservoir, Kashi. (1390 metres)
Peregrine Falcon	1 adult 'Shaheen' <i>F. p. peregrinator</i> at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Common Coot	2750 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Black-winged Stilt	1 juvenile at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Black-tailed Godwit	1 juvenile at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Spotted Redshank	20 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Common Greenshank	13 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. The six birds that were seen well were all juveniles. (1270 metres)
Green Sandpiper	2 singles were heard in Shule on the 11/10/2012. The first was at Tazihong reservoir and the other at Dong Fang Hong reservoir. (metres)
Stint sp.	12 very distant & unidentifiable birds at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. They were not Temminck's Stints which almost certainly means that, on status, they would be Little Stints. (1270 metres)
Dunlin	12 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Black-headed Gull	390 in the Kashi-Shule area on the 11/10/2012. 80 of these were in Shule with 55 on the Tazihong reservoir & 25 more on the river between there & Kashi. Elsewhere there were 310 on Yalang reservoir, Kashi. (metres)
Pallas's Gull	87 in the Kashi-Shule area on the 11/10/2012. 15 of these were in Shule with ten adults on Tazihong reservoir, two on Dong Fang Hong reservoir & three more on the river between there & Kashi. Elsewhere there were 72 on Yalang reservoir, Kashi. (metres)
Yellow-legged Gull	5 in Shule on the 11/10/2012 with two on the Tazihong reservoir & three more fly-overs between there & Kashi. (metres)

Eurasian Collared Dove	2 singles were heard in Shule on the 11/10/2012. The first was on route to the Tazihong reservoir and the other at Dong Fang Hong reservoir. (metres)
Laughing Dove	1 near Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (GOU Jun)(1270 metres)
Common Kingfisher	1 was heard at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Common Magpie	2 singles in the Kashi-Shule area on the 11/10/2012 with one near Tazihong reservoir, Shule & the other at Yalang reservoir, Kashi. (metres)
Western Jackdaw	1 in the large corvid flock at Yalang reservoir, Kashi on the 11/10/2012. (metres)
Rook	681 in the Kashi-Shule area on the 11/10/2012. These involved 30 between Kashi, Shule & Tazihong reservoir in the early morning & another one at Tazihong reservoir itself. The main event was 650 at Yalang reservoir, Kashi in the early evening. (metres)
Carrion Crow	142 in the Kashi-Shule area on the 11/10/2012. These involved 12 between Kashi, Shule & Tazihong reservoir in the early morning & another 90 at Tazihong reservoir itself. There were about 40 in the mixed corvid flock at Yalang reservoir, Kashi in the early evening. (metres)
Hooded Crow	3 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. GOU Jun thought this was an early autumn date for them to be already this far south & he thought that the first record of the autumn for relatively well-watched Nan Shan, Urumqi was only yesterday! (1270 metres)
Corvid sp.	450 very distant birds at the Yapuquan wetland, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (metres)
Azure Tit	7 in the Kashi-Shule area on the 11/10/2012. These involved six in Shule with four, a single & later a flock of three, at Tazihong reservoir in the morning & two at the Yapuquan wetland in the early afternoon. Just one bird was seen in Kashi - a single at Yalang reservoir. (metres)
Asian Short-toed Lark	8 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Crested Lark	27 in Shule on the 11/10/2012. There were 25 around Tazihong reservoir and another two at Dong Fang Hong reservoir. (metres)
Barn Swallow	1 low over Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Common Chiffchaff	2 at the Yapuquan wetland, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (metres)
Hume's Leaf Warbler	2 were heard at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Desert Whitethroat	2 separate calling birds were heard at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Eurasian Wren	1 calling bird was heard at the Yapuquan wetland, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (metres)
Common Starling	1180 at various sites in Shule on the 11/10/2012. There were 30 between Shule town and Tazihong reservoir; 1110 at Tazihong reservoir; 20 flew over the Yapuquan wetland & 20 more flew over Dong Fang Hong reservoir. (metres)
Black-throated Thrush	9 in Shule on the 11/10/2012. These involved eight that flew south over Tazihong reservoir & another at the Yapuquan wetland. (metres)
Pied Wheatear	1 first-winter male at Dong Fang Hong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (metres)
Saxaul Sparrow	3 singles flew west at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	200 in the Kashi-Shule area on the 11/10/2012. These involved 20 between Kashi, Shule & Tazihong reservoir in the early morning & another 50 at Tazihong reservoir itself. There were about 20 near the Yapuquan wetland, Shule, another 50 at the Dong Fang Hong reservoir, Shule and ten near Shule town. Elsewhere there were also about 40 at Yalang reservoir, Kashi. (metres)
White Wagtail	27 in Shule on the 11/10/2012. There were 19, four <i>personata</i> & six <i>alba</i> , around Tazihong reservoir in the morning and another eight, all <i>personata</i> besides the river between Shule & Kashi towns in the mid-afternoon. (metres)
Water Pipit	18 flew west at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Eurasian Chaffinch	1 was heard at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Eurasian Linnet	1 flew west at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Desert Finch	1 flew west at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Reed Bunting	14 in Shule on the 11/10/2012. These involved 11, as singles, twos and threes, that flew purposefully west at Tazihong reservoir in the early morning; another two that were heard at the Yapuquan wetland & another that was heard at Dong Fang Hong reservoir in the mid-afternoon. (metres)

Friday 12 October 2012. All day in Atushi & Jiashi counties.

GOU Jun, driver Mr Yan and I spent all day at two sites northeast and east of Kashi returning to spend the night back at the Kashi Yinruilin International Hotel.

We had the excellent buffet breakfast as soon as it started at 07h50 and left the Kashi Yinruilin International Hotel at 08h15. We drove northeast of Kashi on route S314. We by-passed Atushi town (1400 metres) 40 minutes after leaving our hotel in Kashi and arrived at our first site at 09h15.

We had lunch in Xike'er village

We left about 40 minutes before sunset but the drive back to Kashi took a lot longer than expected as there were two police/military check post that were scrutinising every vehicle and its occupants. It was almost 23h00 before we arrived back at the Kashi Yinruilin International Hotel.

Note that all the lakes and reservoirs even in southern Xinjiang freeze in winter and that the waterfowl on them must then obviously move elsewhere. It's thought that many head south to either to Pakistan via Tashikuergan and the Kunjurab Pass or to Indian Kashmir via Yicheng, Ali and Akesaiqian lake (the site of a famous conflict between China and India some decades ago).

Sun rise and sun set in Kashi on the 12 October 2012

Sun rise	09h01
Sun set	20h23

Site 1. Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. (39°46.9'N., 76°21.2'E.). 1250 metres. (09h15-14h05).

There were almost 15,000 water birds on this relatively small reservoir today!

It took us exactly one hour to drive to this site from the Yinruilin International Hotel in Kashi and we spent almost five hours there. This reservoir is roughly square in shape and about two kilometres across in either direction. It's clearly visible from the S314 highway and is about a ten minute drive north of Atushi town.

The reservoir's set back about 300 metres to the south of both the main highway and the main Urumqi to Kashi railway line but, despite a fence along either side of the railway line, the reservoir itself is currently easily accessed. We first stopped at about kilometre 1410 on route 314 and walked across the rail lines to view the reservoir. Note however that there was a massive construction project here – and it appeared that they were building an expressway. Should this be the case access to this part of the reservoir could become more difficult.

The reservoir's immediate surroundings are extremely arid – there's a barren desert to the south, a small complex of fishponds to the southeast and a dry mountain ridge immediately to the north. The reservoir no doubt acts as a welcome oasis to migrant birds – and it held remarkable numbers of waterfowl today. There was clearly lots of food (lots of weed) for the diving ducks but perhaps not very many fish (hence the virtual absence of cormorants and grebes) in this reservoir.

There's a raised embankment with a hard surfaced road on top of it along the reservoir's eastern and southern sides, the northern side is flanked by the railway line and route S214 and there's a small village with a large number of trees about three kilometres towards Aksu (& hence away from Kashi). These trees no doubt act as a migrant trap/haven for passerines.

There's a historic record of White Stork from Tuokayi reservoir.

Tundra Bean Goose	1
Greylag Goose	113
Ruddy Shelduck	25
Gadwall	470
Eurasian Wigeon	310
Mallard	450
Northern Shoveler	12
Northern Pintail	480
Eurasian Teal	75
Red-crested Pochard	475
Common Pochard	6690
Ferruginous Duck NT	672
Tufted Duck	205
Great Crested Grebe	65
Black-necked Grebe	5
Grey Heron	3
Great Cormorant	25
Osprey	1
Common Buzzard	1
Common Kestrel	1
Peregrine or Barbary Falcon	1
Common Coot	3720
Brown-headed Gull	2
Black-headed Gull	180
Pallas's Gull	160
Yellow-legged Gull	1
Carrion Crow	5
Hooded Crow	3
Common Raven	1
Azure Tit	22
Bearded Reedling	4
Asian Short-toed Lark	10
Crested Lark	6
Common Chiffchaff	2
Black-throated Thrush	1
Saxaul Sparrow	10
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	200
White Wagtail	1
Water Pipit	5
Eurasian Chaffinch	1
Eurasian Linnet	1
Reed Bunting	7

Site 2. Xike'er reservoir (=Xikeer=Xekar reservoir), Jiashi. (39°44.5'N., 77°21.8'E.). 1175 metres. (16h00-19h40).

There were over 5,000 water birds on this reservoir today!

This site is listed as an Important Bird Area in the *Important Bird Areas in China* (BirdLife International 2009). The entry in that publication is as follows –

IBA CODE: CN124

NAME: Xekar Reservoir

CRITERIA: A1 A2 A3 [where A1 = Species of global conservation concern; A2 = Restricted-range species and A3 = Biome-restricted species]

AREA: About 5,000 ha

COORDINATES: 39°48'N 77°20'E

ALTITUDE: 1,100-1,200 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Unprotected

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located 125 km north north-east of Kashi (Kaxgar) City, 65 km north-east of Jiashi (Payzawat) County and 950 km south-west of Urumqi. The IBA is a reservoir on the lower Kazilsu River.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Oxyura leucocephala* (EN)

ENDEMIC BIRD AREAS: 127: Taklimakan Desert

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Animals include *Vulpes vulpes*, *Euchoreutes naso* and *Dipus sagitta*.

Xike'er reservoir is at kilometre post 1323 on route G214 and is about an 87 kilometre drive from Tuokayi reservoir. We stopped in Xike'er zhen for a simple lunch before exploring the large reservoir. This reservoir is perhaps three times the size of Tuokayi and held a surprisingly different array of birds – with far more herons, Great Crested Grebes and cormorants but far fewer of most species of duck except Gadwall.

There's also a historic record of White Stork from Xike'er reservoir.

Taiga or Tundra Bean Goose	1
Ruddy Shelduck	186
Gadwall	1280
Eurasian Wigeon	70
Mallard	280
Northern Shoveler	4
Northern Pintail	105
Eurasian Teal	10
Red-crested Pochard	6
Common Pochard	120
Ferruginous Duck NT	2
Tufted Duck	5
Duck sp.	1000
Great Crested Grebe	357
Black-necked Grebe	4
Black Stork	17
Grey Heron	65
Great Egret	19
Great Cormorant	1165
Common Kestrel	2
Common Coot	490
Common Redshank	3
Common Greenshank	8
Green Sandpiper	1
Brown-headed Gull	3
Black-headed Gull	810
Pallas's Gull	230
Yellow-legged Gull	4
Eurasian Collared Dove	1
Carrion Crow	40
Hooded Crow	1
Common Raven	2
Azure Tit	2
Asian Short-toed Lark	1
Crested Lark	6
Horned Lark	1
Eurasian Crag Martin	185
Desert Whitethroat	1
Saxaul Sparrow	1
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	20
Masked Wagtail <i>M. a. personata</i>	1

Weather

The sky was clear with just 1/8 cloud cover in the early morning and even this had dissipated by midday. It was 8°C at Tuokayi reservoir at 09h15. There was no wind and a light mist in the early morning but a light south-easterly breeze picked up in the late afternoon. And it was 20°C there by 12h10. The temperature peaked at 23°C near Xike'er reservoir at 15h30.

Tundra Bean Goose	1 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 12/10/2012. (1250 metres)
Taiga or Tundra Bean Goose	1 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 12/10/2012. (1175 metres)
Greylag Goose	1 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 12/10/2012. (1250 metres)
Ruddy Shelduck	211 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 25 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & 186 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Gadwall	1750 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 470 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & 1280 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)

Eurasian Wigeon	380 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 310 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & 70 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Mallard	730 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 450 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & 280 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Northern Shoveler	16 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 12 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & four at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Northern Pintail	585 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 480 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & 105 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Eurasian Teal	85 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 75 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & 10 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Red-crested Pochard	481 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 475 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & just six at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Common Pochard	6810 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 6690 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & 120 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. 583 birds were sexed at the Tuokayi and 72% were male, 28 % female. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Ferruginous Duck NT	674 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 672 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & just two at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Tufted Duck	210 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 205 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & just five at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Duck sp.	1000 extremely distant birds were at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 12/10/2012. (1175 metres)
Great Crested Grebe	422 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 65 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & 357 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Black-necked Grebe	9 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved five at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & four at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Black Stork	17 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 12/10/2012. (1175 metres)
Grey Heron	68 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved just three at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & 65 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Great Egret	9 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 12/10/2012. (1175 metres)
Great Cormorant	1190 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 25 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & 1165 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Osprey	1 juvenile at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 12/10/2012. (1250 metres)
Common Buzzard	1 flew west at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 12/10/2012. (1250 metres)
Common Kestrel	3 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012 - with one at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & two singles near Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Peregrine or Barbary Falcon	1 very distant bird at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 12/10/2012. (1250 metres)
Common Coot	4210 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 3720 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & 490 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Common Redshank	3 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 12/10/2012. (1175 metres)
Common Greenshank	8 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 12/10/2012. (1175 metres)
Green Sandpiper	1 was heard at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 12/10/2012. (1175 metres)
Brown-headed Gull	5 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved two (a first-winter & an adult-winter) at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & three first-winters at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Black-headed Gull	990 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 180 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & 810 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Pallas's Gull	390 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 160 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & 230 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Yellow-legged Gull	5 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. There was an adult at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & four birds, two adults and two juveniles at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Eurasian Collared Dove	1 near Xike'er xiang, Jiashi on the 12/10/2012. (1175 metres)
Carrion Crow	45 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved five at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & 40 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Hooded Crow	4 early birds in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012 - there were three at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & a single bird at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Common Raven	3 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012 - there was one at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi that only GOU Jun saw & two more at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Azure Tit	24 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 22 (in flocks of 4, 7 & 11 birds) at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & two that were only heard at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Bearded Reedling	4 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 12/10/2012. They were in the reed beds of the fishponds at the south-eastern corner of the reservoir. (1250 metres)
Asian Short-toed Lark	11 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 10 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & one that was only heard at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Crested Lark	12 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012 with six at both Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Horned Lark	1 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 12/10/2012. (1175 metres)
Eurasian Crag Martin	185 in a single flock near Xike'er xiang, Jiashi in the early evening (19h40 and 45 minutes before sunset) of the 12/10/2012. (1175 metres)
Common Chiffchaff	2 were heard at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 12/10/2012. (1250 metres)
Desert Whitethroat	1 was heard at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 12/10/2012. (1175 metres)
Black-throated Thrush	1 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 12/10/2012. (1250 metres)
Saxaul Sparrow	11 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012 - a flock of ten flew high to the south over Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi while a single bird did the same at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	220 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 200, including two flocks of 90 birds each that flew purposefully high to the west, at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & 20 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
White Wagtail	2 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012 with one at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & the other, a Masked Wagtail <i>M. a. personata</i> , at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Water Pipit	5 flew west at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 12/10/2012. (1250 metres)
Eurasian Chaffinch	1 flew south at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 12/10/2012. (1250 metres)
Eurasian Linnet	1 flew west at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 12/10/2012. (1250 metres)
Reed Bunting	7 singles flew west at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 12/10/2012. (1250 metres)

Saturday 13 October 2012. Kashi to Shache.

We left the Kashi Yinruilin International Hotel at 08h15 and headed south, through Shule (where we made our first stop at the Yapuquan reservoir), to Yingjisha (=Yengisar) where we made several more birding stops before continuing on to Shache (=Yarkant). Arriving there in the late afternoon we just had time to visit two large reservoirs on the edge of town.

GOU Jun had been in contact with Mr Ding, a bird photographer who lives in Shache. Mr Ding had found, and photographed, China's first White-tailed Lapwing near Shache this earlier autumn and we met him, and some of his staff for a lengthy dinner (plus the obligatory drinking).

We spent the night in a decent hotel, the Yehe hotel, reputedly the best in Shache (tel. 0998-8552666 or 8552777). Rooms here cost 168 each and all had en suite bathrooms with western toilets, wash basin and a shower and there was 24 hours hot water. There's a small business centre in the lobby.

Site 1. Yapuquan reservoir, Shule. (39°08.5'N., 76°12.9'E.). 1270 metres. (09h10-10h50).

Also known as the Akesasi reservoir this once large reservoir, just under an hours' drive from Kashi, had very little water in it and consequently rather few birds.

Tundra Bean Goose	1
Ruddy Shelduck	23
Gadwall	20
Eurasian Wigeon	3
Mallard	15
Northern Shoveler	3
Northern Pintail	8
Eurasian Teal	227
Red-crested Pochard	32
Common Pochard	47
Ferruginous Duck NT	3
Tufted Duck	36
Great Crested Grebe	21
Great Cormorant	2
Common Kestrel	2
Barbary Falcon	1
Common Coot	25
Pied Avocet	5
Northern Lapwing	2
Black-headed Gull	17
Pallas's Gull	1
Eurasian Collared Dove	1
Common Magpie	1
Carion Crow	4
Greater Short-toed Lark	6
Crested Lark	6
Eurasian Skylark	1
Common Chiffchaff	2
Desert Whitethroat	2
Common Starling	65
Black-throated Thrush	46
Saxaul Sparrow	20
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	20
White Wagtail	7
Masked Wagtail <i>M. a. personata</i>	2
White Wagtail <i>M. a. alba</i>	3
Water Pipit	41
Eurasian Chaffinch	2
Pine Bunting	[2h?]
Reed Bunting	1

Site 2. Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha. (38°53.0'N., 76°13.4'E.). 1320 metres. (11h30-14h10)

This once very large reservoir is now massively shrunken and is about 6.6 kilometres south of Yingjisha town. It has silted up hugely. Located just to the south of Yingjisha town it held a rather limited number of species today – but the reservoir's southern end held quite a few birds – including several Xinjiang rarities and a lifer for GOU Jun (Slender-billed Gull). It's likely that this site is also an important staging area for Demoiselle Cranes in autumn with the two we saw today probably being the vanguard to an important movement in late October/early November. It's also quite likely that Yingjisha reservoir holds large numbers of Little Stints in August and early September (with the 120 we counted there today possibly being quite late in the season for so many).

We first viewed the reservoir from kilometre 2938 on route S315. This road runs down the reservoir's eastern side – but is set back from it by about 200-300 metres.

There were several sightings of White Pelican (an erratic species in Xinjiang that is common some years but absent others) at Yingjisha reservoir in late autumn 2012.

Ruddy Shelduck	35
Gadwall	26
Eurasian Wigeon	10
Mallard	43
Northern Shoveler	25
Northern Pintail	8
Eurasian Teal	98
Common Pochard	236
Ferruginous Duck NT	6
Tufted Duck	205
Common Goldeneye	1
Great Crested Grebe	23
Black-necked Grebe	15
Grey Heron	4
Great Cormorant	240
Osprey	2
Common Kestrel	1
Barbary Falcon	1
Common Coot	175
Demoiselle Crane	2
Pied Avocet	1
Northern Lapwing	4
Black-tailed Godwit	4
Eurasian Curlew NT	1
Little Stint	131
Curlew Sandpiper	3
Dunlin	27
Slender-billed Gull	3
Black-headed Gull	360
Little Gull	1
Pallas's Gull	31
White-winged Tern	1
Eurasian Collared Dove	34
Common Magpie	3
Carriion Crow	11
Hooded Crow	2
Azure Tit	5
Greater Short-toed Lark	2
Asian Short-toed Lark	2
Crested Lark	3
Horned Lark	1
Desert Finch	15

Leaving this site we headed back in to Yingjisha for lunch and left here at 15h10.

Site 3. Akeer reservoir, Yingjisha. (38°54.7'N., 76°07.2'E.). 1325 metres. (15h25-15h35).

We accessed this relatively small reservoir at kilometre 5 on route X169 – the road that starts at the western end of Wuqia Lu in Yingjisha. It held rather few birds -

Ruddy Shelduck	3
Gadwall	15
Mallard	14
Northern Shoveler	4
Eurasian Teal	75
Common Merganser	1
Great Crested Grebe	15
Great Cormorant	20
Common Coot	15
Black-headed Gull	20
Pallas's Gull	1
Carriion Crow	6

Site 4. Sakavi reservoir, Yingjisha. (38°53.9'N., 76°09.9'E.). 1335 metres. (15h50-15h55).

This relatively small reservoir held remarkably few birds –

Black-headed Gull	3
Crested Lark	1
Masked Wagtail <i>M. a. personata</i>	1

We had intended to have spent the night in Yingjisha but, other than at Yingjisha reservoir, there were remarkably few birds to be seen and we decided to cut our losses and head southeast to Shache. We travelled via expressway G3012 and entered this right on the southern edge of Yingjisha at 16h05 and it took us just under two hours to reach our first birding site on the edge of Shache.

Site 5. Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache. (38°24.9'N., 77°06.8'E.). 1200 metres. (18h00-20h15).

This pair of large reservoirs held remarkably few birds. We started our explorations at the Shuiku Rukou where an entrance fee of 10 yuan/passenger was payable to a decidedly disgruntled, unhappy man. We scanned from there – and soon found a Black-throated Loon way out on the reservoir, minutes later we also spotted a massively distant unidentified bird which, when we drove closer, turned out to be our second juvenile Little Gull of the day!

Clearly quite a popular tourist site these two reservoirs had concrete embankments with a road on top most of the way around them. The lower reservoir had a few small islands and areas of reed bed and there was a tiny village surrounded by some large trees immediately to the north. A large number of Common Starlings had a pre-roost gathering in the taller trees here – but flew off south in the late evening (especially in the 30 minute period between 19h35-20h05 with sunset being at 20h16). They clearly roosted elsewhere.

We also briefly visited the upper or western reservoir – but this held very, very few birds other than some extremely distant ducks so we rapidly returned to the lower, eastern one and spent the last hour or so birding in the north-western corner where there was a wetland just outside the reservoir's embankment.

Common Pheasant	2
Mallard	6
Black-throated Loon	1
Great Crested Grebe	26
Grey Heron	7
Great Cormorant	110
Common Kestrel	1
Eurasian Hobby	2
Green Sandpiper	1
Black-headed Gull	120
Little Gull	1
Pallas's Gull	17
Eurasian Collared Dove	1
Carrion Crow	6
Azure Tit	2
Crested Lark	2
Common Starling	5275
White Wagtail	18
Masked Wagtail <i>M. a. personata</i>	16
Water Pipit	3
Reed Bunting	1

Mammals, reptiles & amphibians

Yarkand Hare	1
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Site 6. Dong Fang Hu west reservoir, Shache. 1220 metres. (18h00-20h15).

Gadwall	15
Mallard	5
Northern Shoveler	5
Northern Pintail	5
Eurasian Teal	10
Red-crested Pochard	20
Common Pochard	5
Tufted Duck	20
Duck sp.	590

Weather

The sky was overcast with 6/8 cloud cover at Yapuquan reservoir, Shule at 09h15. There was no wind and the temperature was about 13°C. The cloud soon dispersed and the day warmed up rapidly however so that it was 28°C at Yingjisha reservoir by 14h10. It was still 14°C besides Dong Fang Hong East reservoir, Shache at 20h15.

Sun set and sun rise in Shache on 13/10/2012.

Sunrise	08h57
Sunset	20h16

Common Pheasant	2 were heard around Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache on the 13/10/2012. (1200 metres)
Tundra Bean Goose	1 at Yapuquan reservoir, Shule on the 13/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Ruddy Shelduck	61 in Shule & Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. These involved 23 on Yapuquan reservoir, Shule; 35 on Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha & three on Akeer reservoir, Yingjisha. (1270-1325 metres)
Gadwall	76 in Shule, Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. These involved 20 on Yapuquan reservoir, Shule; 26 on Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha; 15 on Akeer reservoir, Yingjisha & 15 more on Dong Fang He west reservoir, Shache. (1220-1325 metres)
Eurasian Wigeon	13 in the Shule & Yingjisha areas on the 13/10/2012. These involved three on Yapuquan reservoir, Shule & 10 on Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha. (1270-1320 metres)
Mallard	83 in the Shule, Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. These involved 15 on Yapuquan reservoir, Shule; 43 on Yingjisha reservoir & 14 on Akeer reservoir, both Yingjisha; in Shache there were six on Dong Fang He east reservoir & five on the west reservoir. (1220-1325 metres)

Northern Shoveler	37 in Shule, Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. These involved three on Yapuquan reservoir, Shule; 25 on Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha; four on Akeer reservoir, Yingjisha & five more on Dong Fang He west reservoir, Shache. (1220-1325 metres)
Northern Pintail	21 in the Shule, Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. These involved eight on Yapuquan reservoir, Shule; 8 on Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha & five more on Dong Fang He west reservoir, Shache. (1220-1325 metres)
Eurasian Teal	410 in Shule, Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. These involved 227 on Yapuquan reservoir, Shule; 98 on Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha; 75 on Akeer reservoir, Yingjisha & 10 more on Dong Fang He west reservoir, Shache. (1220-1325 metres)
Red-crested Pochard	52 in the Shule & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. These involved eight on Yapuquan reservoir, Shule & 20 on Dong Fang He west reservoir, Shache. (1220-1270 metres)
Common Pochard	288 in Shule, Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. These involved 47 on Yapuquan reservoir, Shule; 236 on Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha & five on Dong Fang He west reservoir, Shache. (1220-1325 metres)
Ferruginous Duck NT	9 in the Shule & Yingjisha areas on the 13/10/2012. There were three on Yapuquan reservoir, Shule & six on Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha. (1270-1320 metres)
Tufted Duck	261 in the Shule, Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. These involved 36 on Yapuquan reservoir, Shule; 205 on Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha & 20 on Dong Fang He west reservoir, Shache. (1220-1325 metres)
Common Goldeneye	1 at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. (1320 metres)
Common Merganser	1 redhead at Akeer reservoir, Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. (1325 metres)
Duck sp.	590 at Dong Fang Hu west reservoir, Shache on the 13/10/2012. (1220 metres)
Black-throated Loon	1 at Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache on the 13/10/2012. Perhaps the first record for southern Xinjiang. (1200 metres)
Great Crested Grebe	85 in the Shule, Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. These involved 21 on Yapuquan reservoir, Shule; 23 on Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha; 15 on Akeer reservoir, Yingjisha & 26 more on Dong Fang He east reservoir, Shache. (1220-1325 metres)
Black-necked Grebe	15 on Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. (1320 metres)
Grey Heron	11 in the Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012 with four besides Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha & seven more besides Dong Fang Hu reservoir west, Shache. (1200 & 1320 metres)
Great Cormorant	372 in the Shule, Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. These involved two at Yapuquan reservoir, Shule; 240 on Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha; 20 on Akeer reservoir, Yingjisha & 110 on Dong Fang He west reservoir, Shache. (1220-1325 metres)
Osprey	2, at least one of which was an adult, at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. (1320 metres)
Common Kestrel	4 singles in the Shule, Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. Two birds were seen at Yapuquan reservoir, Shule and singles near the Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha & at Dong Fang He east reservoir, Shache. (1200-1325 metres)
Eurasian Hobby	2 at Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache on the 13/10/2012. (1200 metres)
Barbary Falcon	2 singles on the 13/10/2012 - with one at Yapuquan reservoir, Shule & the other at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha. (1270 & 1320 metres)
Common Coot	215 in the Shule & Yingjisha areas on the 13/10/2012. These involved 25 on Yapuquan reservoir, Shule and 190 in Yingjisha with 175 on Yingjisha reservoir & another 15 on Akeer reservoir. (1270-1325 metres)
Demoiselle Crane	2, a pair, at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. (1320 metres)
Pied Avocet	6 on the 13/10/2012 - with five at Yapuquan reservoir, Shule & the other at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha. (1270 & 1320 metres)
Northern Lapwing	6 on the 13/10/2012 - with two besides the Yapuquan reservoir, Shule & the other four at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha. (1270 & 1320 metres)
Black-tailed Godwit	4 juveniles besides the Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. (1320 metres)
Eurasian Curlew NT	1 at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. (1320 metres)
Green Sandpiper	1 flew over Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache on the 13/10/2012. (1200 metres)
Little Stint	131 juveniles at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. (1320 metres)
Curlew Sandpiper	3 juveniles at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. (1320 metres)
Dunlin	27 juveniles at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. (1320 metres)
Slender-billed Gull	3 winter-plumaged adults at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. The first record for southern Xinjiang & perhaps only the fourth for the entire province. One bird was photographed. (1320 metres)



Slender-billed Gull with Black-headed Gulls at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha.

Black-headed Gull	520 in the Shule, Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. There were 17 besides the Yapuquan reservoir, Shule; in Yingjisha county there were 360 on Yingjisha reservoir, 20 on Akeer reservoir & three on Sakayi reservoir; there were also 120 on Dong Fang He east reservoir, Shache. (1220-1325 metres)
Little Gull	2 widely separate juveniles on the 13/10/2012 - with one on the Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha & the other at Dong Fang Hu east reservoir Shache. The second bird was photographed and these are possibly the first records from southern Xinjiang (GOU Jun pers. comm. 13/10/2012). (1270 & 1320 metres)

Pallas's Gull	50 in the Shule, Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. There was just one besides the Yapuquan reservoir, Shule; 31 at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha; one on Akeer reservoir, Yingjisha & 17 more on Dong Fang He east reservoir, Shache. (1220-1325 metres)
White-winged Tern	1 juvenile at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. (1320 metres)
Eurasian Collared Dove	36 in the Shule, Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. There was just one near the Yapuquan reservoir, Shule; 34 close to Yingjisha town & one more on Dong Fang He east reservoir, Shache. (1220-1325 metres)
Common Magpie	4 in the Shule & Yingjisha areas on the 13/10/2012 with one at Yapuquan reservoir, Shule & three near Yingjisha town. (1270-1300 metres)
Carrion Crow	27 in the Shule, Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. These involved four near Yapuquan reservoir, Shule; 11 near Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha; six close to Akeer reservoir, Yingjisha & six more near Dong Fang He west reservoir, Shache. (1220-1325 metres)
Hooded Crow	2 at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. (1320 metres)
Azure Tit	7 in the Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012 with five close to the dam of Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha & two more at Dong Fang Hu reservoir east, Shache. (1220 & 1320 metres)
Greater Short-toed Lark	8 in the Shule & Yingjisha areas on the 13/10/2012 with six besides the Yapuquan reservoir, Shule & two more near Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha. (1270-1320 metres)
Asian Short-toed Lark	2 at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. (1320 metres)
Crested Lark	12 in the Shule, Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. These involved six near Yapuquan reservoir, Shule; three near Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha; one close to Sakayi reservoir, Yingjisha & two more near Dong Fang He west reservoir, Shache. (1220-1335 metres)
Eurasian Skylark	1 flew over Yapuquan reservoir, Shule on the 13/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Horned Lark	1 flew over Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. (1320 metres)
Common Chiffchaff	2 were heard at Yapuquan reservoir, Shule on the 13/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Desert Whitethroat	2 calling birds were heard at Yapuquan reservoir, Shule on the 13/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Common Starling	5340 in the Shule & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012 with 65 near Yapuquan reservoir, Shule & 5275 counted flying to roost in the 30 minute period between 19h35-20h05 (with sunset being at 20h16) at Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache. (1200-1270 metres)
Black-throated Thrush	46 at Yapuquan reservoir, Shule on the 13/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Saxaul Sparrow	20 at Yapuquan reservoir, Shule on the 13/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	20 at Yapuquan reservoir, Shule on the 13/10/2012. (1270 metres)
White Wagtail	26 in the Shule, Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. These involved seven (two <i>personata</i> & three <i>alba</i>) at Yapuquan reservoir, Shule; one <i>personata</i> at Sakayi reservoir, Yingjisha & 18 (16 <i>personata</i>) at Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache. (1200-1320 metres)
Water Pipit	44 in the Shule & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012 with 41 over Yapuquan reservoir, Shule & three over Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache. (1200-1270 metres)
Eurasian Chaffinch	2 flew south at Yapuquan reservoir, Shule on the 13/10/2012. (1270 metres)
Desert Finch	15 in a single flock flew over at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. (1320 metres)
[Pine Bunting	12 birds, possibly this species, were heard at Yapuquan reservoir, Shule on the 13/10/2012. (1270 metres)]
Reed Bunting	2 singles on the 13/10/2012 - with one at Yapuquan reservoir, Shule & the other at Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache. (1200 & 1270 metres)

Mammals, reptiles & amphibians

Yarkand Hare	1 near Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache on the 13/10/2012. (1190 metres)
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Sunday 14 October 2012. All day around Shache.

We left the Yehe hotel, Shache at 08h35 and walked up the street to have breakfast with Mr Ding and one of his staff. Leaving there at 09h05 we headed off, following Mr Ding in his four-wheel drive, to the site where he'd found White-tailed Plover earlier this autumn. We spent just over one hour there before moving on. In all, and guided throughout by Mr Ding, we explored about half-a-dozen sites around Shache today. It was extremely windy and several of them were pretty bird-less or windswept, but a couple were good and worthwhile.

Site 1. Wetland near Dong Fang Hong east reservoir, Shache. (38°26.8'N., 77°07.4'E.). 1220 metres. (09h10-10h35).

Ruddy Shelduck	4
Mallard	6
Eurasian Teal	10
Great Cormorant	110
Eurasian Marsh Harrier	1
Hen Harrier	3
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	1
Pacific Golden Plover	3
Common Snipe	2
Wood Sandpiper	5
Black-headed Gull	95
Pallas's Gull	4
Eurasian Collared Dove	2
Carrion Crow	10
White-crowned Penduline Tit	1
Bearded Reedling	5
Greater Short-toed Lark	2
Crested Lark	2
Sand Martin	1
Barn Swallow	80
Common Chiffchaff	2
Common Starling	3
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	20
Western Yellow Wagtail	1
White Wagtail	12 including four <i>personata</i>

Tawny Pipit	1
Water Pipit	15
[European Greenfinch	1h?]
Desert Finch	1
Reed Bunting	8

Site 2. Roadside fishponds and reed bed near Dong Fang Hong east reservoir, Shache. (38°27.9'N., 77°07.6'E.). 1210 metres. (10h50-11h30).

Eurasian Teal	1
Red-crested Pochard	50
Common Buzzard	1
Common Kestrel	3
Black-headed Gull	6
Eurasian Collared Dove	12
Rook	185
Carrion Crow	5
Hooded Crow	1
Bearded Reedling	1
Greater Short-toed Lark	[1?]
Crested Lark	2
Barn Swallow	2
Black-throated Thrush	2
Bluethroat	1
Water Pipit	3
Reed Bunting	3

Site 3. Mijdong reservoir, Shache. (38°27.1'N., 77°22.9'E.). 1200 metres. (12h20-14h20).

Greylag Goose	15
Gadwall	70
Eurasian Wigeon	8
Mallard	30
Northern Shoveler	40
Northern Pintail	130
Eurasian Teal	1060
Red-crested Pochard	74
Common Pochard	410
Ferruginous Duck NT	34
Tufted Duck	215
Great Crested Grebe	19
Black-necked Grebe	3
Great Cormorant	1375
Eurasian Marsh Harrier	1
Common Buzzard	1
Common Kestrel	3
Common Coot	715
Common Sandpiper	1
Black-headed Gull	270
Common Starling	650

Site 4. Dunbage reservoir, Shache. (38°28.7'N., 77°23.8'E.). 1220 metres. (14h30-14h40).

Great Crested Grebe	3
Great Cormorant	5
Carrion Crow	5
Azure Tit	1

Site 5. Yigaierqi reservoir, Shache. (38°20.4'N., 77°23.2'E.). 1215 metres. (15h00-15h20).

Ferruginous Duck NT	4
Great Crested Grebe	4
Hen Harrier	2
Common Kestrel	1
Peregrine Falcon	1
Carrion Crow	2

Site 6. Reed bed and wetland near Yigaierqi reservoir, Shache. (38°19.9'N., 77°24.8'E.). 1210 metres. (15h45-20h00).

Greylag Goose	88
Ruddy Shelduck	8
Gadwall	4
Eurasian Wigeon	3
Mallard	4
Northern Shoveler	2
Northern Pintail	5
Eurasian Teal	15
Red-crested Pochard	2

Common Pochard	7
Duck sp.	30
Black Stork	1
Grey Heron	13
Great Egret	3
Great Cormorant	25
Eurasian Marsh Harrier	3
Hen Harrier	10
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	1
accipiter sp.	2
Common Buzzard	1
Common Kestrel	3
Black-winged Stilt	22
Common Snipe	24
Spotted Redshank	2
Common Redshank	12
Marsh Sandpiper	2
Green Sandpiper	1
Wood Sandpiper	14
Little Stint	9
Dunlin	8
Ruff	6
Black-headed Gull	95
Pallas's Gull	10
Eurasian Collared Dove	6
Carrion Crow	20
Bearded Reedling	2
Crested Lark	6
Sand Martin	2
Sand or Pale Martin	3
Barn Swallow	195
Common Chiffchaff	1
Rosy Starling	1
Common Starling	4500
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	30
Western Yellow Wagtail	1
White Wagtail	73 including 11 <i>personata</i>
Red-throated Pipit	3
Water Pipit	71
Reed Bunting	58
Greylag Goose	103 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with 15 on Mijidong reservoir & 88 at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
Ruddy Shelduck	12 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with just four, two pairs, at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir & eight at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
Gadwall	74 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with 70 on Mijidong reservoir & four at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
Eurasian Wigeon	11 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with eight on Mijidong reservoir & three at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
Mallard	40 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with six at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, 30 on Mijidong reservoir & four at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
Northern Shoveler	42 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with 40 on Mijidong reservoir & two more at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
Northern Pintail	135 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with 130 on Mijidong reservoir & five more at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
Garganey	1 on Mijidong reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1200 metres)
Eurasian Teal	1086 in Shache on the 14/10/2012. These involved 10 at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, one close to the roadside fishponds also near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, 1060 on Mijidong reservoir & 15 at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
Red-crested Pochard	126 in Shache on the 14/10/2012. These involved 50 on the roadside fishponds also near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, 74 on Mijidong reservoir & two at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
Common Pochard	417 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with 410 on Mijidong reservoir & seven at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
Ferruginous Duck NT	38 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with 34 on Mijidong reservoir & four recent & locally fledged birds, on Yigaierqi reservoir. (1200-1220 metres)
Tufted Duck	215 on Mijidong reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1200 metres)
Duck sp.	30 at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)
Great Crested Grebe	26 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with 19 on Mijidong reservoir, three on Dunbage reservoir & four on Yigaierqi reservoir. (1200-1220 metres)
Black-necked Grebe	3 on Mijidong reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1200 metres)
Black Stork	1 first-year flew over the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)
Grey Heron	13 at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)
Great Egret	3 at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)
Great Cormorant	1515 in Shache on the 14/10/2012. These involved 110 at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, 1375 on Mijidong reservoir, five on Dunbage reservoir & 25 at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
Eurasian Marsh Harrier	5 juveniles in Shache on the 14/10/2012. Birds were seen at three separate sites as follows - one at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, another near Mijidong reservoir & three at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)



Juvenile Eurasian Marsh Harrier near Shache.

Hen Harrier	15, including four adult males, in Shache on the 14/10/2012. Birds were seen at three separate sites as follows - three (two ringtails and an adult male) at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir; two, including another adult male, at Yigaierqi reservoir & 10, including at least two adult males at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	2 singles in Shache on the 14/10/2012 - the first was over the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir while the other was over the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
accipiter sp.	2 singles over the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)
Common Buzzard	3 separate birds in Shache on the 14/10/2012 - one close to the roadside fishponds also near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, another near the Mijidong reservoir & the third near the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
Common Kestrel	12 in Shache on the 14/10/2012. Birds were seen as follows - two at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, three close to the roadside fishponds also near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, three near Mijidong reservoir, one at Yigaierqi reservoir and three at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
Peregrine Falcon	1 juvenile near Yigaierqi reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)
Common Coot	715 on Mijidong reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1200 metres)
Black-winged Stilt	22 at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)
Pacific Golden Plover	3 at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1220 metres)
Common Snipe	26 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with two at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir & 24 others at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
Spotted Redshank	2 juveniles at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)
Common Redshank	12 at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)
Marsh Sandpiper	2 juveniles at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)
Green Sandpiper	1 was heard over the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)
Wood Sandpiper	19 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with five over the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir & 14 at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
Common Sandpiper	1 besides Mijidong reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1200 metres)
Little Stint	9 juveniles at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)
Dunlin	8 juveniles at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)
Ruff	6 juveniles (four males and two females in separate parties of one, two and three) at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)
Black-headed Gull	466 in Shache on the 14/10/2012. These involved 95 at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, six close to the roadside fishponds also near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, 270 on Mijidong reservoir & 95 at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
Pallas's Gull	14 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with four at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir & 10 at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
Eurasian Collared Dove	20 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with two at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, 12 close to the roadside fishponds also near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir & six at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
Rook	185 over the roadside fishponds near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)
Carrion Crow	42 in Shache on the 14/10/2012. These involved 10 at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, five close to the roadside fishponds also near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, five more near Dunbage reservoir, two at Yigaierqi reservoir & 20 at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
Hooded Crow	1 near the roadside fishponds near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)
Azure Tit	1 was heard at Dunbage reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1220 metres)
White-crowned Penduline Tit	1 was heard at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1220 metres)

Bearded Reedling	8 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with five at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, one close to the roadside fishponds also near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir & two at the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
Greater Short-toed Lark	2 at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1220 metres). [In addition another bird, possibly this species, was heard poorly over the roadside fishponds also near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir].
Crested Lark	10 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with two at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, two more close to the roadside fishponds also near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir & six at the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
Sand Martin	3 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with one over the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir & two others over the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
Sand or Pale Martin	3 over the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)
Barn Swallow	277 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with 80 over the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, two close to the roadside fishponds also near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir & 195 over the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
Common Chiffchaff	3 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with two being heard at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir & another heard at the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
Rosy Starling	2 in one of the flocks of Common Starlings at the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)
Common Starling	5150 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with just three over the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, 650 at Mijidong reservoir & 4500 at the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland in the early evening. (1200-1220 metres)
Black-throated Thrush	2 close to the roadside fishponds also near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1200 metres)
Bluethroat	1 close to the roadside fishponds also near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1200 metres)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	50 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with 20 at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir & 30 at the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
Western Yellow Wagtail	2 singles in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with the first being heard over the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir and the second heard over the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
White Wagtail	85 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with 12, including four <i>personata</i> , at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir & 73, including 11 <i>personata</i> , at the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
Tawny Pipit	1 calling bird flew high over the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1200 metres)
Red-throated Pipit	3 separate birds flew north (!) over the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)
Water Pipit	89 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with 15 at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, three close to the roadside fishponds also near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir & 71 at the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. Many of the latter were apparently heading to an evening roost near there. (1200-1220 metres)
[European Greenfinch	1 bird, possibly this species, was heard over the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1200 metres)]
Desert Finch	1 was heard over the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1200 metres)
Reed Bunting	69 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with eight at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, three close to the roadside fishponds also near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir & 58 at the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. Many of the latter were apparently heading to a nearby evening roost. (1200-1220 metres)

Monday 15 October 2012. Shache to Maigaiti.

We left the Shache hotel at 08h30 and headed north towards Maigaiti (=Makit). We again made numerous stops today and finally arrived at the Daolangguojidajudian (the Daolang International Grand Hotel tel. 0998-7862999 and 7862777) in Maigaiti at about 21h00. Rooms here cost 208 yuan/night and there was even free internet access!

Site 1. Ailixihu upper reservoir, Shache. (38°38.1'N., 77°18.7'E.). 1180 metres. (09h15-09h30 and again 13h10-13h30).

This site is accessed by turning right (east) on to an unmarked dirt track at about kilometre 193 on the main Shache to Maigaiti highway (route S215). This junction is about six kilometres south of Ailixihu zhen. Leaving the Ailixihu upper reservoir (for the second and final time) at 13h30 we headed back to the main Shache to Maigaiti highway (route S215), turned right (north) and headed in to Ailixihu zhen where we had lunch. This lasted for 35 minutes from 13h45.

Common Pheasant	7
Ruddy Shelduck	2
Gadwall	20
Eurasian Wigeon	10
Mallard	10
Northern Shoveler	24
Northern Pintail	20
Eurasian Teal	4
Red-crested Pochard	2
Common Pochard	170
Ferruginous Duck NT	5
Tufted Duck	35
Great Crested Grebe	52
Grey Heron	3
Great Egret	2
Great Cormorant	40
Eurasian Marsh Harrier	3
Common Coot	557
Black-headed Gull	30
Pallas's Gull	7
Common Kingfisher	1

Rook	2
Carrion Crow	5
Azure Tit	2
White-crowned Penduline Tit	1
Common Starling	300
Black-throated Thrush	15
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	50
Water Pipit	2
Eurasian Chaffinch	2
Reed Bunting	2

Site 2. Ailixihu lower reservoir, Shache. (38°39.5'N., 77°18.7'E.). 1180 metres. ((09h35-13h05).

At one stage these two reservoirs are only about 100 metres apart and are joined by a short canal at that point. This concrete sided, apparently fairly new reservoir held very, very few birds and I spent most of my time exploring an overgrown wet channel with dense Red Willow, scrub, fragmites and small pools along its eastern side. We'd initially stopped here so that I could record some vocalising Chinese Hill Babblers – and I was doing that when I heard, and eventually saw, a Smoky Warbler. I was aware at the time that this was the first record for Xinjiang. It remained in the area for about 20 minutes but, after the initial encounter when it responded very well to playback of a singing Smoky Warbler I'd recorded in Bhutan, it was always elusive. GOU Jun wasn't with me when I saw it and by the time he arrived it had retreated in to the denser scrub. He heard it calling several times but unfortunately never actually saw it.

Great Cormorant	5
Eurasian Collared Dove	20
Carrion Crow	5
Azure Tit	2
Smoky Warbler	1
Chinese Hill Babbler	5
Goldcrest	1
Eurasian Wren	3
Common Starling	150
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	20
White Wagtail	1 Masked Wagtail <i>M. a. personata</i>
Water Pipit	3
Desert Finch	1

Site 3. Sukuqiake reservoir, Shache. (38°47.4'N., 77°16.6'E.). 1180 metres. (14h40-16h55).

This site is accessed by turning left (west) off route S215 at about kilometre 190.2. We then drove through a massive expanse of flat, arid grassland, dry reed beds and tiny scattered pools as well as small sand dunes as we approached this huge reservoir. We spent just over two hours here – but saw virtually everything within the first 15 minutes as this site was a little disappointing.

Leaving Sukuqiake reservoir at 16h55 we headed back to the main highway (route S215) which we reached just 15 minutes later. We then continued to head north and soon crossed the Ye'erqiang river – the largest river we'd seen on the current Xinjiang trip. The river here forms the border of the Shache and Maigaiti counties.

Ruddy Shelduck	2
Gadwall	16
Mallard	2
Duck sp.	200
Great Crested Grebe	17
Grey Heron	4
Great Egret	4
Great Cormorant	80
Eurasian Marsh Harrier	1
Hen Harrier	1
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	1
Common Buzzard	1
Common Kestrel	1
Peregrine Falcon	1
Common Moorhen	1
Common Coot	210
Black-headed Gull	45
Pallas's Gull	4
Common Kingfisher	1
Rook	2
Carrion Crow	10
Azure Tit	2
White-crowned Penduline Tit	1
Barn Swallow	6
Cetti's Warbler	4
Common Chiffchaff	2
Eurasian Wren	1
Rosy Starling	1
Common Starling	4100
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	50
Desert Finch	1

Site 4. Fish ponds close to the bridge over the Ye'erqiang River (=Ye'ercheng river = Yarkand river), Maigaiti. (38°53.3'N., 77°35.5'E.). 1180 metres. (17h50-17h55).

Grey Heron	2
Black-headed Gull	75
Carrion Crow	2

Site 5. Hankule reservoir (= Hanke'er reservoir), Maigaiti. (38°46.0'N., 77°33.7'E.). 1180 metres. (18h25-20h00).

GOU Jun had previously visited this site – but only once (& in late November 'a few years back') and it's likely that no other birders had ever been here before or since! GOU Jun saw an exceptionally late Little Bittern here on his previous trip as well as decent numbers of White-crowned Penduline Tits and Common Reed Buntings.

We drove right around the reservoir and found the best area to be in in the bay at the reservoir's southernmost point. This is where virtually all the ducks were.

Gadwall	24
Mallard	10
Northern Shoveler	23
Northern Pintail	79
Eurasian Teal	15
Common Pochard	502
Ferruginous Duck NT	307
Tufted Duck	22
Grey Heron	8
Great Egret	20
Great Cormorant	720
Eurasian Marsh Harrier	1
Long-legged Buzzard	1
Common Kestrel	3
Black-winged Stilt	1
Spotted Redshank	1
Common Greenshank	2
Carrion Crow	20
Barn Swallow	5
Chinese Hill Babbler	2
Desert Whitethroat	1
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	20
White Wagtail	2
Water Pipit	2
Reed Bunting	1

Weather

A glorious day with just 1/8 cloud cover in the early morning. 14°C at Ailixihu upper reservoir, Shache at 09h30. Yesterday's troublesome wind had gone and it remained calm all day today. It was 16°C besides the Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti at 19h35.

Common Pheasant	7 at Ailixihu upper reservoir, Shache on the 16/10/2012. (1180 metres)
Ruddy Shelduck	4 in Shache on the 15/10/2012 with two besides Ailixihu upper reservoir & two more besides Sukuqiake reservoir. (1180 metres)
Gadwall	60 in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012. 36 of these were in Shache with 20 on Ailixihu upper reservoir & 16 on Sukuqiake reservoir while the other 24 were on Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)
Eurasian Wigeon	10 on Ailixihu upper reservoir, Shache on the 15/10/2012. (1180 metres)
Mallard	22 in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012. 12 of these were in Shache with 10 on Ailixihu upper reservoir & two on Sukuqiake reservoir while the other 10 were on Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)
Northern Shoveler	47 in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012 with 24 on Ailixihu upper reservoir, Shache & 23 on Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)
Northern Pintail	99 in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012 with 20 on Ailixihu upper reservoir, Shache & 79 on Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)
Eurasian Teal	19 in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012 with four on Ailixihu upper reservoir, Shache & 15 on Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)
Red-crested Pochard	2 at Ailixihu upper reservoir, Shache on the 16/10/2012. (1180 metres)
Common Pochard	672 in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012 with 170 on Ailixihu upper reservoir, Shache & 502 on Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)
Ferruginous Duck NT	312 in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012 with five on Ailixihu upper reservoir, Shache & 307 on Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)
Tufted Duck	57 in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012 with 35 on Ailixihu upper reservoir, Shache & 22 on Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)
Duck sp.	200 on Sukuqiake reservoir, Shache on the 15/10/2012. (1180 metres)
Great Crested Grebe	69 in Shache on the 15/10/2012 with 52 on Ailixihu upper reservoir & 17 on Sukuqiake reservoir. (1180 metres)
Grey Heron	17 in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012. Seven of these were in Shache with three on Ailixihu upper reservoir & four on Sukuqiake reservoir while the other 10 were in Maigaiti with two besides the Ye'ercheng river & eight on Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)
Great Egret	26 in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012. Six of these were in Shache with two on Ailixihu upper reservoir & four on Sukuqiake reservoir while the other 20 were on Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)
Great Cormorant	845 in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012. 125 of these were in Shache with 40 on Ailixihu upper reservoir, five on Ailixihu lower reservoir & 80 on Sukuqiake reservoir. Elsewhere there were 720 on Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)

Eurasian Marsh Harrier	5 juveniles in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012. Four of these were in Shache with three around Ailixihu upper reservoir & one at Sukuqiake reservoir while the other was at Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)
Hen Harrier	1 ringtail at Sukuqiake reservoir, Shache on the 15/10/2012. (1180 metres)
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	1 at Sukuqiake reservoir, Shache on the 15/10/2012. (1180 metres)
Common Buzzard	1 at Sukuqiake reservoir, Shache on the 15/10/2012. (1180 metres)
Long-legged Buzzard	1 at Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti on the 15/10/2012. (1180 metres)
Common Kestrel	4 in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012 with one at Sukuqiake reservoir, Shache & three around Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)
Peregrine Falcon	1 adult at Sukuqiake reservoir, Shache on the 15/10/2012. (1180 metres)
Common Moorhen	1 was heard at Sukuqiake reservoir, Shache on the 15/10/2012. (1180 metres)
Common Coot	767 in Shache on the 15/10/2012 with 557 at the Ailixihu upper reservoir & 210 at Sukuqiake reservoir. (1180 metres)
Black-winged Stilt	1 juvenile at Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti on the 15/10/2012. (1180 metres)
Spotted Redshank	1 juvenile at Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti on the 15/10/2012. (1180 metres)
Common Greenshank	2 juveniles at Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti on the 15/10/2012. (1180 metres)
Black-headed Gull	150 in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012 with 75 in Shache (30 Ailixihu upper reservoir & 45 on Sukuqiake reservoir) and 75 besides the bridge over the Ye'ercheng river, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)
Pallas's Gull	11 in Shache on the 15/10/2012 with seven at the Ailixihu upper reservoir & four at Sukuqiake reservoir. (1180 metres)
Eurasian Collared Dove	20 near Ailixihu lower reservoir, Shache on the 16/10/2012. (1180 metres)
Common Kingfisher	2 singles in Shache on the 15/10/2012 with one at the Ailixihu upper reservoir & the other at Sukuqiake reservoir. (1180 metres)
Rook	4 in Shache on the 15/10/2012 with two near Ailixihu upper reservoir & two more besides Sukuqiake reservoir. (1180 metres)
Carrion Crow	42 in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012. These involved 20 in Shahe with five at both the upper and lower Ailixihu reservoirs and 10 at Sukuqiake reservoir. Elsewhere there were 22 in Maigaiti with two besides the Ye'ercheng river bridge & 20 at Hankule reservoir. (1180 metres)
Azure Tit	6 in Shache on the 15/10/2012 with two at Ailixihu upper reservoir, two more at Ailixihu lower reservoir and two more at Sukuqiake reservoir. (1180 metres)
White-crowned Penduline Tit	2 singles in Shache on the 15/10/2012 with one heard over the Ailixihu upper reservoir & the other heard at Sukuqiake reservoir. (1180 metres)
Barn Swallow	11 in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012 with six over Sukuqiake reservoir, Shache & five over Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)
Cetti's Warbler	1 at Sukuqiake reservoir, Shache on the 15/10/2012. I saw two while GOU Jun saw three - and one of my birds would be different to all of his. (1180 metres)
Common Chiffchaff	2 were heard at Sukuqiake reservoir, Shache on the 15/10/2012. (1180 metres)
Smoky Warbler	1 near Ailixihu lower reservoir, Shache on the 16/10/2012. The first record for Xinjiang. (1180 metres)
Chinese Hill Babbler	7 in the Shache-Maigaiti area on the 15/10/2012 with five around the Ailixihu lower reservoir, Shache and two other heard at Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)
Desert Whitethroat	1 was heard at Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti on the 15/10/2012. (1180 metres)
Goldcrest	1 near Ailixihu lower reservoir, Shache on the 16/10/2012. (1180 metres)
Eurasian Wren	4 in Shache on the 15/10/2012 with three besides Ailixihu lower reservoir & one more besides Sukuqiake reservoir. (1180 metres)
Rosy Starling	1 in a large flock of Common Starlings Sukuqiake reservoir, Shache on the 15/10/2012. (1180 metres)
Common Starling	4595 in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012. The vast majority of these (4550 birds) were in Shache with 300 were around Ailixihu upper reservoir, 150 more around Ailixihu lower reservoir and 4100 at Sukuqiake reservoir. Elsewhere there were 45 close to the Ye'ercheng river, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)
Black-throated Thrush	15 at Ailixihu upper reservoir, Shache on the 16/10/2012. (1180 metres)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	140 in the Shache-Maigaiti area on the 15/10/2012. 120 of these were in Shache with 70 between Shache town & the Ailixihu reservoirs & 50 more at Sukuqiake reservoir. Elsewhere there were 20 around Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)
White Wagtail	3 in the Shache-Maigaiti area on the 15/10/2012 with one <i>personata</i> at Ailixihu lower reservoir, Shache & two birds that were not racially assigned at Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)
Water Pipit	7 in the Shache-Maigaiti area on the 15/10/2012 with five around the Ailixihu upper & lower reservoirs, Shache and two at Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)
Eurasian Chaffinch	2 at Ailixihu upper reservoir, Shache on the 16/10/2012. (1180 metres)
Desert Finch	2 singles in Shache on the 15/10/2012 with one over the Ailixihu lower reservoir & the other over Sukuqiake reservoir. (1180 metres)
Reed Bunting	3 in the Shache-Maigaiti area on the 15/10/2012 with at Ailixihu upper reservoir, Shache & one at Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)

Tuesday 16 October 2012. Maigaiti to Baqu.

We left the Daolang International Grand Hotel, Maigaiti at 08h20 and drove east towards the Taklimakan Desert and Qianjin reservoir. Unfortunately the GPS map on GOU Jun's mobile phone led us astray and we ended up driving in circles trying to find this large reservoir. In all it took us over 1.5 hours to access the site when it really should only have taken about one-third of that!

We spent almost two hours there before heading off up to Honghai reservoir immediately east of Baqu (=Bachu =Kalabash), the district that is immediately north of Maigaiti. It was a fairly lengthy drive and we arrived in Baqu xian at 14h40. We had a half-hour break for lunch here before heading on to our next birding destinations – Honghai and immediately adjacent Weixin reservoirs.

Baqu (=Kalabash) town centre. (39°46.9'N., 78°32.2'E.). 1130 metres.

Site 1. Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti. (38°57.1'N., 77°50.3'E.). 1130 metres. (10h00-11h50).

A large, sort of circular, reservoir with a high concrete sided embankment and road about to-thirds of the way around it. We were given access to this site by one of the reservoir officers who was kind enough to unlock the gates and accompany us for half-an-hour or so.

Ruddy Shelduck	5
Gadwall	11
Eurasian Wigeon	1
Mallard	8
Eurasian Teal	10
Red-crested Pochard	12
Common Pochard	20
Ferruginous Duck NT	12
Duck sp.	20
Great Crested Grebe	134
Black-necked Grebe	42
Great Cormorant	80
Common Buzzard	1
Common Kestrel	2
Common Coot	20
Black-headed Gull	80
Pallas's Gull	4
Yellow-legged Gull	1
Pallas's Sandgrouse	85
Eurasian Collared Dove	7
Asian Short-toed Lark	[5?]
Chinese Hill Babbler	1
Pied Wheatear	1
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	10
White Wagtail	1
Water Pipit	1
Reed Bunting	2

Site 2. Honghai reservoir, Baqu. (39°46.1'N., 78°27.7'E.). 1120 metres. (15h20-19h40).

This site is also called the Hong Hai Water Park and it's on route to another tourist destination near Baqu – the Quergai Golden Diversiflora Poplar Reserve. There's a road right around the elevated bank that surrounds this large reservoir and we drove anti-clockwise part way around it – but we probably didn't even progress even one third of the way around. There were very few birds on the reservoir itself but a small marsh immediately to the north of the northernmost point of the reservoir held a few birds such as all the geese, all the shorebirds and a pair of Common Cranes. After that I spent a while attempting, unsuccessfully, to record some Chinese Hill Babblers. In the late afternoon we stopped to check a small flock of gulls – and there were two Slender-billed Gulls among them.

Remarkably Honghai reservoir, and not Weixin reservoir, is included in the *Important Bird Areas in China* (BirdLife International 2009) where it is linked with, what we found to be a bird less Xiaohaizi reservoir, as an area called the Bachu Oasis. The IBA has the following account –

IBA CODE: CN123

NAME: Bachu Oasis

CRITERIA: A2 A3 A4i,A4iii [where A1 = Species of global conservation concern; A2 = Restricted-range species; A3 = Biome-restricted species; A4 = Congregations — (i) presence, on a regular basis, of >1% of a biogeographic population of a congregatory waterbird species; (ii) presence, on a regular basis, of >1% of the global population of a congregatory seabird or terrestrial species; (iii) presence, on a regular basis, of >20, 000 waterbirds or >10, 000 pairs of seabirds of one or more species; (iv) a “bottleneck” site through which at least 20, 000 storks (Ciconiidae), raptors (Falconiformes) or cranes (Gruidae) regularly pass or use as stopovers during spring or autumn migration].

AREA: About 50,000 ha

COORDINATES: 39°45'N 78°45'E

ALTITUDE: 1,100-2,100 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Unprotected

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located 240 km east of Kashi City and 850 km south-west of Urumqi. The IBA is at the confluence of the Yarkant and Kaxgar rivers, and includes Xiaohaizi and Honghaizi reservoirs.

ENDEMIC BIRD AREAS: 127: Taklimakan Desert

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert

CONGREGATORY WATERBIRDS: *Phalacrocorax carbo* (over 20,000 on migration), *Anas platyrhynchos* (over 20,000 on migration), *Ciconia nigra*, *Netta rufina*

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: The area supports the fish *Pelochelys bibroni*, and animals include *Vulpes vulpes*, *Euchoreutes naso* and *Dipus sagitta*.

Taiga Bean Goose	14
Greylag Goose	63
Ruddy Shelduck	4
Gadwall	190
Eurasian Wigeon	5

Mallard	185
Northern Shoveler	3
Northern Pintail	2
Eurasian Teal	1
Common Pochard	15
Tufted Duck	4
Duck sp.	100
Little Grebe	4
Great Crested Grebe	17
Grey Heron	4
Great Cormorant	30
Eurasian Marsh Harrier	1
Common Moorhen	1
Common Coot	17
Common Crane	2
Pacific Golden Plover	7
Eurasian Curlew NT	1
Ruff	1
Slender-billed Gull	2
Black-headed Gull	50
Pallas's Gull	6
Yellow-legged Gull	3
Eurasian Collared Dove	2
Great Grey Shrike	1
Carrion Crow	6
Hooded Crow	2
Crested Lark	4
Chinese Hill Babbler	2
Desert Whitethroat	1
Common Starling	25
Black-throated Thrush	3
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	40
Water Pipit	1

Site 3. Weixin reservoir, Baqu. (39°45.7'N., 78°22.7'E.). 1120 metres. (19h45-20h10).

Another very large reservoir (there are three in close proximity here) that's only separated from Honghai reservoir by about 500 metres at one point. It was the very end of the day when we reached Weixin reservoir – but it held an impressive number of waterfowl.

Gadwall	2000
Mallard	100
Northern Pintail	20
Eurasian Teal	5
Common Pochard	200
Tufted Duck	10
Great Crested Grebe	50
Black-necked Grebe	10
Great Cormorant	10
Common Coot	4000
Green Sandpiper	1
Black-headed Gull	980
Pallas's Gull	10
Yellow-legged Gull	1

Weather

A reasonable day - windier and duller than yesterday with 6 or 7/8 cloud cover at Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti in the early morning. It was also 11°C there, dull and with a moderate northeast wind. The wind didn't really die off until the early evening.

Taiga Bean Goose	14 at Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Greylag Goose	63 at Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Ruddy Shelduck	9 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012 with five on Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti & four on Honghai reservoir, Baqu. (1120-1130 metres)
Gadwall	2200 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012. These involved 11 on Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti and 2190 in Baqu with 190 on Honghai reservoir & 2000 on Weixin reservoir. (1120-1130 metres)
Eurasian Wigeon	6 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012 with just one on Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti & five on Honghai reservoir, Baqu. (1120-1130 metres)
Mallard	293 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012. These involved eight on Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti and 285 in Baqu with 185 on Honghai reservoir & 100 on Weixin reservoir. (1120-1130 metres)
Northern Shoveler	3 on Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Northern Pintail	22 in Baqu on the 16/10/2012 with two on Honghai reservoir & 20 on Weixin reservoir. (1120 metres)
Eurasian Teal	16 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012. These involved 10 on Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti and six in Baqu with just one on Honghai reservoir & five on Weixin reservoir. (1120-1130 metres)
Red-crested Pochard	12 at Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti on the 16/10/2012. (1130 metres)
Common Pochard	235 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012. These involved 20 on Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti and 215 in Baqu with 15 on Honghai reservoir & 200 on Weixin reservoir. (1120-1130 metres)
Ferruginous Duck NT	12 at Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti on the 16/10/2012. (1130 metres)
Tufted Duck	14 in Baqu on the 16/10/2012 with four on Honghai reservoir & 10 on Weixin reservoir. (1120 metres)

Duck sp.	120 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012 with 20 on Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti & 100 on Honghai reservoir, Baqu. (1120-1130 metres)
Little Grebe	4 on Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Great Crested Grebe	201 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012. These involved 134 on Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti and 67 in Baqu with 17 on Honghai reservoir & 50 on Weixin reservoir. (1120-1130 metres)
Black-necked Grebe	52 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012 with 42 on Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti and 10 on Weixin reservoir, Baqu. (1120-1130 metres)
Grey Heron	4 around Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Great Cormorant	120 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012. These involved 80 on Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti and 400 in Baqu with 30 on Honghai reservoir & 10 on Weixin reservoir. (1120-1130 metres)
Eurasian Marsh Harrier	1 juvenile over the small marsh near the northern end of Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Common Buzzard	1 adult at kilometre post 7 in 48 Tuan, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1130 metres)
Common Kestrel	2 near Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti on the 16/10/2012. (1130 metres)
Common Moorhen	1 on the small marsh near the northern end of Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Common Coot	4037 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012. These involved 20 on Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti and 4017 in Baqu with just 17 on Honghai reservoir & about 4000 on Weixin reservoir. (1120-1130 metres)
Common Crane	2, a pair, on the small marsh near the northern end of Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Pacific Golden Plover	7 on the small marsh near the northern end of Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Eurasian Curlew NT	1 on the small marsh near the northern end of Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Green Sandpiper	1 near Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Ruff	1 juvenile male on the small marsh near the northern end of Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Slender-billed Gull	2 adults at the northern end of Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. One had a strong summer plumage pink flush and both were photographed. (1120 metres)



Slender-billed Gull at Honghai reservoir, Baqu

Black-headed Gull	1110 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012. These involved 80 on Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti and 1030 in Baqu with 50 on Honghai reservoir & 980 at an evening roost on Weixin reservoir. (1120-1130 metres)
Pallas's Gull	20 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012. These involved four on Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti and 16 in Baqu with four on Honghai reservoir & 10 on Weixin reservoir. (1120-1130 metres)
Yellow-legged Gull	5 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012. These involved one on Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti and four in Baqu with three on Honghai reservoir & another on Weixin reservoir. (1120-1130 metres)
Pallas's Sandgrouse	85 near Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti on the 16/10/2012. (1130 metres)
Eurasian Collared Dove	9 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012 with seven near Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti & two near Honghai reservoir, Baqu. (1120-1130 metres)
Great Grey Shrike	1 at the northern end Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (Photographed)(1120 metres)
Carrion Crow	11 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012 with five close to Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti & six near Honghai reservoir, Baqu. (1120-1130 metres)
Hooded Crow	2 singles near Baqu on the 16/10/2012 - the first was about 10 minutes to the south of town, the second between town and Honghai reservoir. (1120 metres)
[Asian Short-toed Lark	5 birds, possibly this species, were heard at Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti on the 16/10/2012. (1130 metres)]
Crested Lark	4 near Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Chinese Hill Babbler	3 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012 with one near Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti & a pair close to Honghai reservoir, Baqu. (1120-1130 metres)
Desert Whitethroat	1 was heard near Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Common Starling	25 near Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Black-throated Thrush	3 near Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Pied Wheatear	1 first-winter female at Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti on the 16/10/2012. (1130 metres)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	50 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012 with 10 near Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti & 40 at various places between Baqu town & Honghai reservoir. (1120-1130 metres)
White Wagtail	1 at Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti on the 16/10/2012. (1130 metres)

Water Pipit	2 singles in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012 with one over Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti & the other over Honghai reservoir, Baqu. (1120-1130 metres)
Reed Bunting	2 at Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti on the 16/10/2012. (1130 metres)

Wednesday 17 October 2012. Am & early afternoon Baqu , pm to Tumushuke.

We left our Baqu hotel at 08h28 and drove straight back to Honghai reservoir. Arriving just 13 minutes later we spent the rest of the morning and the early afternoon there and, especially, around neighbouring Weixin reservoir. We had a very late lunch back in Baqu, left there at 17h00 and then headed northeast towards Tumushuke. We took local road X594 and stopped several times in Tumushuke county – first at the massive (& bird less) Xiaohaizi reservoir, second at a nearby river and lastly at Yonganba reservoir. The latter was a superb site that was about a 25 minute drive southwest of Tumushuke town.

We spent the night in the Tushi hotel, Tumushuke (39°51.8'N., 79°04.6'E.). (tel. 0998 6187222 and 6187555) where our rooms cost 128 yuan/night.

Site 1. Honghai reservoir, Baqu. (39°46.1'N., 78°27.7'E.). 1120 metres. (08h40-08h55 and again 14h45-15h30).

We had visited this site yesterday – but had then only driven about one third of the way around it. Today we visited it again – on our way to and from the much more bird-rich neighbouring Weixin reservoir. We initially did much the same as yesterday – arrived at the embankment road and turned right to drive anticlockwise around the reservoir. We drove perhaps five kilometres or so before turning off right to view Weixin reservoir. We returned to Honghai reservoir mid-afternoon and completed the circular drive around the embankment road.

Ruddy Shelduck	20
Gadwall	295
Eurasian Wigeon	15
Mallard	31
Northern Shoveler	6
Northern Pintail	4
Eurasian Teal	45
Ferruginous Duck NT	3
Tufted Duck	2
Duck sp.	100
Great Crested Grebe	84
Common Buzzard	1
Common Coot	155
Common Crane	11
Black-headed Gull	157
Pallas's Gull	1
Carion Crow	8
Hooded Crow	1
Azure Tit	2
Crested Lark	4
Common Starling	90
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	25
Reed Bunting	1

Site 2. Weixin reservoir, Baqu. (39°45.7'N., 78°22.7'E.). 1120 metres. (09h00-14h25).

We had visited this site, briefly, yesterday evening and there were so many birds that we were keen to return. We spent almost 5.5 hours here today – but at least a couple of these were occupied by me attempting, fairly unsuccessfully, to record several groups of Chinese Hill Babblers. In the even we drove about one third of the way around the reservoir's embankment road – driving clockwise to stay with the sun behind us. This reservoir was excellent.

Common Pheasant	2
Greylag Goose	2
Ruddy Shelduck	13
Gadwall	2010
Eurasian Wigeon	3
Mallard	10
Eurasian Teal	10
Red-crested Pochard	2
Common Pochard	200
Ferruginous Duck NT	2
Tufted Duck	145
Great Crested Grebe	198
Black-necked Grebe	204
Grey Heron	8
Great Egret	9
Great Cormorant	23
Hen Harrier	1
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	1
Common Kestrel	1
Common Coot	3630
Green Sandpiper	1
Black-headed Gull	150
Little Gull	3

Pallas's Gull	4
Yellow-legged Gull	1
Great Grey Shrike	1 (+2)
Carrion Crow	4
Azure Tit	8
White-crowned Penduline Tit	3
Bearded Reedling	4
Greater Short-toed Lark	[4h?]
Asian Short-toed Lark	[2h?]
Crested Lark	6
Barn Swallow	1
Cetti's Warbler	1
Common Chiffchaff	2
Desert Whitethroat	3
Chinese Hill Babbler	8
Common Starling	60
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	335
Water Pipit	3
Desert Finch	1
Reed Bunting	9

Site 3. Xiaohaizi reservoir, Tumushuke. (39°47.5'N., 78°45.7'E.). 1120 metres. (17h40-17h50).

This site is 27.6 kilometres east of Tumushuke town.

This was the first time that either GOU Jun or I had visited this absolutely massive reservoir – and perhaps the last as it was practically bird less! Remarkably Xiaohaizi reservoir was listed, as IBA CN123, in the *Important Bird Areas in China* (BirdLife International 2009)!

Great Crested Grebe	3
Black-headed Gull	15

Site 4. Rengong river about 3 Kms upstream from Xiaohaizi reservoir, Tumushuke. (39°49.4'N., 78°45.0'E.). 1130 metres. (18h00-18h05).

Leaving Xiaohaizi reservoir earlier than we'd anticipated we had time to stop nearby when we saw a few waterbirds in the channel of the Rengong river.

Great Cormorant	5
Black-headed Gull	80
Pallas's Gull	4

Site 5. Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke. (39°51.1'N., 79°00.3'E.). 1090 metres. (18h45-20h05).

This site is 5.84 kilometres east of Tumushuke town.

Another excellent site that our brief 80 minute visit couldn't come close to doing justice to. It took us a while to access but once there it was superb with thousands of waterfowl (like Weixin reservoir in the morning the majority were Coot and Gadwall but there was reasonable diversity). We accessed the reservoir via its north-eastern corner then drove east (anticlockwise) about five kilometres along the northern end of the reservoir's embankment road before turning south and driving about 800 metres down to a small fishing camp.

This site is NOT even listed in the *Important Bird Areas in China* (BirdLife International 2009) but when I spent more time there on the 18/10/2012 it held over 20,000 waterfowl and would probably even count as a RAMSAR site!

Yonganba north is clearly a shallow reservoir – there were horses grazing on the emergent grass and standing belly deep right out in what I would consider the middle of the reservoir!

There's a driveable road around much, but not all, of the reservoir. We initially accessed it in the north-eastern corner today – the corner closest to Tumushuke town. We then drove west along the embankment road stopping multiple times to scan the waterfowl. The following day we did a more thorough exploration of the site – though we started in exactly the same place, the north-eastern corner. We then gradually moved west along the embankment road before cutting south down the eastern flank of the first internal fish pond. This rougher dirt road then swung back around to the west and led back, after a couple of kilometres, to the reservoir embankment. Unfortunately we were unable to cross this and get back on the boundary road and were forced to back track. However there was an excellent marsh just outside the embankment in this the reservoir's north-western corner. This small marsh held a modest number of shorebirds on the 18th October. That same day we also explored several spots down the reservoir's eastern flank – and a wetland in the south-easternmost corner was superbly bird rich holding almost 10,000 waterfowl itself!

The reservoir is large – being about 6.15 kilometres from east to west across its broadest (northern side) and perhaps eight kilometres from north to south. It is connected to the Yonganba south reservoir via a rather narrow channel in its southeastern corner.

We returned the same way and then drove on to Tumushuke where we spent the night.

Ruddy Shelduck	10
Gadwall	1500
Eurasian Wigeon	20
Mallard	40
Red-crested Pochard	100
Common Pochard	5
Ferruginous Duck NT	10
Great Crested Grebe	100
Grey Heron	1
Great Cormorant	100
Hen Harrier	1
Common Kestrel	1
Common Coot	4000
Common Greenshank	1
Common Crane	213
Black-headed Gull	150
Pallas's Gull	2
Common Tern	1
Eurasian Collared Dove	1
Crested Lark	2
Eurasian Wren	1
Masked Wagtail <i>M. a. personata</i>	3
Reed Bunting	4
Common Pheasant	2 singles at Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Greylag Goose	2 at Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Swan sp.	9 at Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 17/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Ruddy Shelduck	43 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with 33 in Baqu (20 on Honghai & 13 on Weixin reservoirs respectively) and 10 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke. (1090-1120 metres)
Gadwall	3805 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with 2305 in Baqu (295 on Honghai & 2010 on Weixin reservoirs respectively) and 1500 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke. (1090-1120 metres)
Eurasian Wigeon	38 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with 18 in Baqu (15 on Honghai & three on Weixin reservoirs respectively) and 20 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke. (1090-1120 metres)
Mallard	81 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with 41 in Baqu (31 on Honghai & 10 on Weixin reservoirs respectively) and 40 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke. (1090-1120 metres)
Northern Shoveler	6 on Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Northern Pintail	4 on Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Eurasian Teal	55 in Baqu on the 17/10/2012 with 45 on Honghai reservoir & 10 on Weixin reservoir. (1120 metres)
Red-crested Pochard	102 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with two on Weixin reservoir, Baqu & 100 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke. (1090-1120 metres)
Common Pochard	205 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with 200 on Weixin reservoir, Baqu & five on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke. (1090-1120 metres)
Ferruginous Duck NT	15 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with five in Baqu (three on Honghai & two on Weixin reservoirs respectively) and 10 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke. (1090-1120 metres)
Tufted Duck	147 in Baqu on the 17/10/2012 with two on Honghai reservoir & 145 on Weixin reservoir. (1120 metres)
Duck sp.	100 on Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Great Crested Grebe	385 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012. These involved 282 in Baqu with 84 on Honghai reservoir & 198 on Weixin reservoir while there were also 103 in Tumushuke with three on Xiaohaizi reservoir & 100 on Yonganba north reservoir. (1090-1120 metres)
Black-necked Grebe	204 on Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Grey Heron	9 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with eight besides Weixin reservoir, Baqu & one high over Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke. (1090-1120 metres)
Great Egret	9 at Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Great Cormorant	128 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with 23 on Weixin reservoir, Baqu & 105 in Tumushuke (with five besides the Rengong river (about 3 Kms upstream from Xiaohaizi res.) & 100 on Yonganba north reservoir. (1090-1120 metres)
Hen Harrier	2 singles in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with a ringtail near Weixin reservoir, Baqu & an adult male near Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke. (1090 & 1120 metres)
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	1 juvenile at Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Common Buzzard	1 adult near Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Common Kestrel	2 singles in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with the first near Weixin reservoir, Baqu & the other close to Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke. (1090 & 1120 metres)
Common Coot	7785 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with 3785 in Baqu (155 on Honghai & 3630 on Weixin reservoirs respectively) and 4000 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke. (1090-1120 metres)
Common Crane	224 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with 11 near Honghai reservoir, Baqu & 213 at Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke. (1090-1120 metres)
Common Greenshank	1 was heard at Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 17/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Green Sandpiper	1 at Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Black-headed Gull	552 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with 307 in Baqu (157 on Honghai & 1500 on Weixin reservoirs respectively). Elsewhere there were 245 in Tumushuke with 15 at Xiaohaizi reservoir, 80 besides the Rengong river (about 3 Kms upstream from Xiaohaizi res.) & 150 on Yonganba north reservoir. (1090-1120 metres)
Little Gull	3 juveniles on Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Pallas's Gull	11 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with five in Baqu (one on Honghai & four on Weixin reservoirs respectively). Elsewhere there were six in Tumushuke with four besides the Rengong river (about 3 Kms upstream from Xiaohaizi res.) & two on Yonganba north reservoir. (1090-1120 metres)
Yellow-legged Gull	1 juvenile on Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Common Tern	1 adult on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 17/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Eurasian Collared Dove	1 near Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 17/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Great Grey Shrike	3 at Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. I only saw one bird while GOU Jun saw the other two. (1120 metres)
Carrion Crow	12 in Baqu on the 17/10/2012 with eight around Honghai reservoir & four near Weixin reservoir. (1120 metres)

Hooded Crow	1 near Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Azure Tit	10 in Baqu on the 17/10/2012 with two near Honghai reservoir & eight others around Weixin reservoir. (1120 metres)
White-crowned Penduline Tit	3 separate birds were heard at Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Bearded Reedling	4 at Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)
[Greater Short-toed Lark	4 birds, possibly this species, were heard at Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)]
[Asian Short-toed Lark	2 birds, possibly this species were heard at Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)]
Crested Lark	12 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with 103 in Baqu (four around Honghai & six at Weixin reservoirs respectively). Elsewhere there were two near Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke. (1090-1120 metres)
Horned Lark	3 at Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 17/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Barn Swallow	1 over Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Cetti's Warbler	1 was heard at Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Common Chiffchaff	2 singles were heard near Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Desert Whitethroat	3 at Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Chinese Hill Babbler	8, a single, a party of three & another of four, at Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Eurasian Wren	1 was heard at Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 17/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Common Starling	150 in Baqu on the 17/10/2012 with 90 near Honghai reservoir & 60 around Weixin reservoir. (1120 metres)
Saxaul Sparrow	22 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with 20 flying north at Weixin reservoir, Baqu in the morning and two flying west at Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke in the early evening. (1090 & 1120 metres)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	360 in Baqu on the 17/10/2012 with 25 around Honghai reservoir & 335 at Weixin reservoir. There was an obvious movement of sparrows at Weixin this morning with 13 parties of between five & 80 Eurasian Tree Sparrows flying purposefully north in the early morning. They were presumably leaving a nearby roost although the movement last until at least 10h30 - a full 1.5 hours after sunrise!. (1120 metres)
White Wagtail	3 <i>personata</i> at Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 17/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Water Pipit	3 flew north at Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Desert Finch	1 flew north at Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)
Reed Bunting	14 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with 10 in Baqu (1 near Honghai & nine at Weixin reservoirs respectively). Elsewhere there were four near Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke. (1090-1120 metres)

Thursday 18 October 2012. All day Tumushuke. Evening in Baku.

We left the Tushi hotel, Tumushuke at 08h10 and drove straight back to Tumushuke north reservoir. Arriving just 15 minutes later we spent much of the rest of the day there exploring areas along the northern boundary road and immediately to the northwest before back tracking and heading down road (route S230) along the eastern shoreline. In the late afternoon we had a very quick look on Tumushuke south reservoir (just long enough to discover that there were hardly any birds there) before heading slowly back to Baqu along the road that initially runs between the north and south Tumushuke reservoir. We arrived back in Baqu at about 17h30, had a quick dinner and then checked in to the supposedly three star Yinxing Hotel (Baqu Silver Star Hotel). Tel. 0998-6218331 and 6227777. Fax. 0998-6225522. Email bcyxhotel@163.com.

Sun rise and sun set at Tumushuke on the 18 October 2012

Sun rise	08h56
Sun set	20h02

Site 1. Yonganba north reservoir (northern border road), Tumushuke. (39°51.1'N., 79°00.3'E.). 1090 metres. (08h25-12h30).

It took us 15 minutes to drive the seven kilometres here from the Tushi hotel in central Tumushuke town.

There was a very modest movement of passerines over the reservoir in the early morning - all were moving west and the numbers were small with five Greater Short-toed Larks, 18 Water Pipits, two Pine and 14 Reed Buntings. In reality however, and considering that this site is virtually surrounded by extensive expanses of desert and isn't close to a river that might be a migration route, I was surprised that there was any visible migration at all.

This important reservoir held over 20,000 water birds today – and 20,000 is the RAMSAR site threshold.

Greylag Goose	8
Whooper Swan	12 (10 adults & two immatures)
Gadwall	2585
Eurasian Wigeon	35
Mallard	25
Northern Shoveler	25
Northern Pintail	10
Red-crested Pochard	552
Common Pochard	490
Ferruginous Duck NT	26
Tufted Duck	330
Great Crested Grebe	35
Grey Heron	8
Great Egret	1
Great Cormorant	2125
Eurasian Marsh Harrier	1
Long-legged Buzzard	1
Common Kestrel	1
Common Coot	3820
Common Crane	622
Black-tailed Godwit	5

Spotted Redshank	1
Common Greenshank	3
Little Stint	8
Black-headed Gull	240
Pallas's Gull	7
Yellow-legged Gull	7
Whiskered Tern	1
Eurasian Collared Dove	2
Carrion Crow	2
Greater Short-toed Lark	5
Asian Short-toed Lark	2
Crested Lark	17
Horned Lark	1
Common Chiffchaff	3
Eurasian Wren	1
Common Starling	215
Black-throated Thrush	1
Saxaul Sparrow	85
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	20
White Wagtail	3 Masked Wagtail <i>M. a. personata</i>
Water Pipit	18
Desert Finch	1
Pine Bunting	2
Reed Bunting	14

Site 2. Yonganba north reservoir (eastern boarder road near cement works), Tumushuke. 1090 metres. (12h55-13h15).

I viewed the reservoir from the very northern end of a conspicuous rocky ridge – about 800 metres north of the large, but rather well concealed, cement works.

Whooper Swan	5 adults
Gadwall	95
Eurasian Wigeon	20
Red-crested Pochard	15
Common Pochard	30
Ferruginous Duck NT	271
Great Crested Grebe	5
Common Buzzard	1
Common Coot	150
Black-headed Gull	50
Crested Lark	2
Horned Lark	8

Site 3. Yonganba north reservoir (eastern boarder road near Km 14 on S230 and south of cement works), Tumushuke. (39°48.4'N., 79°01.1'E.). 1090 metres. (13h30-15h50).

A roadside lagoon here held very impressive numbers of fairly close ducks – with Ferruginous, Tufted Duck and Eurasian Wigeon concentrated at the lagoon's northern end and Gadwall and Coot at its southern end.

Taiga or Tundra Bean Goose	3
Greylag Goose	11
Gadwall	1965
Eurasian Wigeon	365
Mallard	35
Common Pochard	425
Ferruginous Duck NT	25
Tufted Duck	2760
Great Crested Grebe	20
Common Coot	3045
Black-headed Gull	40
Mongolian Finch	100

Site 4. Yonganba south reservoir (eastern boarder road), Tumushuke. (39°44.8'N., 79°02.1'E.). 1090 metres. (15h50-16h10).

Great Crested Grebe	15
Black-headed Gull	1140
Pallas's Gull	10

Site 5. Causeway road between the Yonganba north and south reservoirs, Tumushuke. 1090 metres. (16h15-17h15).

Eurasian Teal	32
Great Crested Grebe	32
Black-headed Gull	100
Pallas's Gull	20

Weather

Another nice day. After a clear start (with just 1/8 cloud cover) it clouded over mid-afternoon. 5°C besides Yonganba north reservoir at 09h00 rising to 21°C there mid-afternoon. As has been the case most days the wind gradually increased during the morning before tailing off again in the later afternoon.

Taiga or Tundra Bean Goose	3 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. They were near Km 13 & south of the cement works on the reservoir's eastern border road (route S230. (1090 metres)
Greylag Goose	19 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Whooper Swan	17, 12 adults & five immatures, on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. Birds were seen in two discrete flocks, the first of 12 and the second of five. (1090 metres)
Ruddy Shelduck	43 from the causeway between Yonganba north & south reservoirs, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Gadwall	4645 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. 2585 were counted from the reservoir's northern border road, 95 more near the cement works on the eastern road & 1965 at Km 14, a little further south, on this same eastern road, route S230. (1090 metres)
Eurasian Wigeon	420 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. 35 were counted from the reservoir's northern border road, 20 more near the cement works on the eastern road & 365 at Km 14, a little further south, on this same eastern road, route S230. (1090 metres)
Mallard	75 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Northern Shoveler	25 in the north-western corner of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Northern Pintail	10 in the north-western corner of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Eurasian Teal	32 from the causeway between the Yonganba north & south reservoirs, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Red-crested Pochard	567 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. Almost all of these were seen from the reservoir's northern border road. (1090 metres)
Common Pochard	945 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. 490 were counted from the reservoir's northern border road, 30 more near the cement works on the eastern road & 425 at Km 14, a little further south, on this same eastern road, route S230. (1090 metres)
Ferruginous Duck NT	322 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. 26 were counted from the reservoir's northern border road, 271 more near the cement works on the eastern road & 25 at Km 14, a little further south, on this same eastern road, route S230. (1090 metres)
Tufted Duck	3090 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. 330 of these were counted from the reservoir's northern border road & 2760 at Km 14 on the eastern road, route S230. (1090 metres)
Great Crested Grebe	107 on the Yonganba reservoirs, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. 92 were seen at various sites around the north reservoir and 15 on the southern one. (1090 metres)
Grey Heron	8 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Great Egret	1 in the northwest corner of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Great Cormorant	2125 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. This count was made as from the northern border road as they all flew west at 10h50 & on to the fishponds. Small numbers of birds were seen at various other sites during the rest of the day but it's quite possibly that these would be part of this same early morning flock and they are not included in the daily total. (1090 metres)
Eurasian Marsh Harrier	1 juvenile in the northwest corner of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Common Buzzard	2 singles around Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Long-legged Buzzard	1 near the northern end of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Common Kestrel	1 over Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Common Coot	7015 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. 3820 were counted from the reservoir's northern border road, 150 more near the cement works on the eastern road & 3045 at Km 14, a little further south, on this same eastern road, route S230. Common Coot was the single commonest species on the reservoir. (1090 metres)
Common Crane	645 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. 622 birds, in flocks of 22, 30, 30, 70 & 470 flew north & away from the reservoir in just over quarter of an hour (between 08h51 & 09h07 & therefore between five minutes before and 11 minutes after official sunrise) while another 23 were seen in grassland in the reservoir's south-eastern corner mid-afternoon. (1090 metres)
Black-tailed Godwit	5 juveniles in the north-western corner of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Spotted Redshank	1 juvenile in the north-western corner of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Common Greenshank	3 singles in the north-western corner of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Wood Sandpiper	1 in the north-western corner of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Little Stint	8 juveniles in the north-western corner of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Black-headed Gull	1570 on the Yonganba reservoirs, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. 430 were counted at various points around the northern reservoir while a tight flock of 1140 were in the very middle of the southern reservoir mid-afternoon. (1090 metres)
Pallas's Gull	37 on the Yonganba reservoirs, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Yellow-legged Gull	7 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Whiskered Tern	1 juvenile in the north-western corner of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (Photographed)(1090 metres)
Eurasian Collared Dove	2 near Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Carrion Crow	5 near Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Greater Short-toed Lark	5 flew west over the Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Asian Short-toed Lark	2 flew west over the Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Crested Lark	24 around Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Horned Lark	9 near Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. One flew west over the northern boundary road in the early morning while another eight close to the cement works on the reservoir's eastern flank. (1090 metres)
Common Chiffchaff	3 were heard at Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Eurasian Wren	1 was heard near Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Common Starling	215, in flocks of five, 20, 30, 40, 40 & 80 birds, flew west over the northern end of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke in the early morning of the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Black-throated Thrush	1 was heard over the northern border road of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Saxaul Sparrow	85, in flocks of five, 10, 20, 25 & 25 birds flew west over the northern boundary road of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. All were seen after 10h20 – well over an hour after sunrise. (1090 metres)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	20 near Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
White Wagtail	3 <i>personata</i> near the northern boundary road of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)

Water Pipit	18 flew west over the northern end of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke during the morning of the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Mongolian Finch	100 in a single flock besides Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. They were all Km 14 (south of cement works) on S230 that runs down the eastern side of the reservoir. (1090 metres)
Desert Finch	2 singles flew west over the northern end of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Pine Bunting	2 singles flew high to the west over the northern end of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
Reed Bunting	14, singles, pairs and flocks of up to four birds, flew west over the northern end of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)

Friday 19 October 2012. Baqu to Jiashi, Atushi & finally back to Kashi.

We left the Baqu Silver Star Hotel at about 06h00 and drove back to Xike'er reservoir at kilometre post 1323 on route G214. Arriving just under two hours later (at 07h50) we kicked our heels for almost one hour before it was light enough to see. We then spent several hours birding here before having lunch in Xike'er village. After that we headed west back to Tuokayi reservoir where we spent just over 3.5 hours in strong winds.

We arrived back at the Yinruilin International Hotel in Kashi at about 19h30.

Site 1. Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (39°44.5'N., 77°21.8'E.). 1175 metres. (08h50-11h40).

Although there were more Black Storks, Gadwall and Pochard overall there were fewer water birds in total on this reservoir today than there were a week ago!

Xike'er reservoir is at kilometre post 1323 on route G214.

I had previously visited this site on 9 August 2005 and again one week previously on the 12 October 2012. Birds seen here today were -

Common Pheasant	2
Ruddy Shelduck	140
Gadwall	1845
Eurasian Wigeon	50
Mallard	60
Eurasian Teal	5
Red-crested Pochard	30
Common Pochard	430
Ferruginous Duck NT	2
Great Crested Grebe	35
Black-necked Grebe	8
Black Stork	42
Grey Heron	99
Great Egret	17
Great Cormorant	1020
Hen Harrier	1
Common Kestrel	1
Common Coot	290
Common Redshank	1
Common Greenshank	1
Green Sandpiper	1
Dunlin	1
Brown-headed Gull	1
Black-headed Gull	750
Pallas's Gull	70
Yellow-legged Gull	4
Carion Crow	30
Hooded Crow	7
Asian Short-toed Lark	1
Crested Lark	10
Wheatear sp.	1
Saxaul Sparrow	62
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	20
Desert Finch	1
Reed Bunting	12

A summary of my three visits to Xike'er reservoir is as follows -

Check that the birds were actually seen at Xike'er and not at Tuokayi on the 9/8/2005

	9 August-2005	12-October-2012	19-October-2012
Common Pheasant			2
Taiga or Tundra Bean Goose		1	
Ruddy Shelduck	600	186	140
Gadwall	46	1280	1845
Eurasian Wigeon	2	70	50
Mallard	85	280	60
Northern Shoveler	4	4	
Northern Pintail	27	105	
Garganey	1150		
Eurasian Teal		10	5
Red-crested Pochard	8	6	30
Common Pochard	24	120	430
Ferruginous Duck NT	37	2	2
Tufted Duck	8	5	
Common Merganser	2		
Duck sp.		1000	600
Great Crested Grebe	100	357	35
Black-necked Grebe	3	4	8
Black Stork		17	42
Grey Heron	37	65	99
Great Egret		19	17
Great Cormorant		1165	1020
White-tailed Eagle	1		
Long-legged Buzzard	2		
Lesser Kestrel VU	1		
Common Kestrel		2	1
Eurasian Hobby	1		
Common Moorhen	1		
Common Coot	60	490	290
Black-winged Stilt	60		
Pied Avocet	6		
Kentish Plover	20		
Common Redshank	20	3	1
Common Greenshank	27	8	1
Green Sandpiper		1	1
Wood Sandpiper	1		
Common Sandpiper	1		
Temminck's Stint	1		
Dunlin			1
Brown-headed Gull		3	1
Black-headed Gull	150	810	750
Pallas's Gull	78	230	70
Yellow-legged Gull		4	4
'Western' Little Tern	8		

Common Tern	100		
White-winged Tern	1		
Rock Pigeon	xxx		
Eurasian Collared Dove	1	1	
Laughing Dove	3		
European Nightjar	1		
Common Swift	10		
Common Kingfisher	1		
Eurasian Hoopoe	2		
Red-tailed Shrike	20		
Carrion Crow	4	40	30
Hooded Crow		1	7
Azure Tit		2	
Bearded Reedling	13		
Barn Swallow	40		
Eurasian Crag Martin		185	
Blyth's Reed Warbler	3		
Eurasian Reed Warbler	2		
Desert Whitethroat		1	
Saxaul Sparrow		1	62
House Sparrow	30		
Eurasian Tree Sparrow		20	20
Citrine Wagtail	20		
White Wagtail	20	1	
Masked Wagtail <i>M. a. personata</i>		1	
Desert Finch			1
Reed Bunting			12

Site 2. Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. (39°46.9'N., 76°21.2'E.). 1250 metres. (14h50-18h30).

Incredibly there were even more Common Pochard (8100) on this relatively small reservoir today than there were one week ago!



Mixed waterfowl flock on Tuokayi reservoir on 19 October 2012.

As with Xike'er reservoir I had previously visited this site on 9 August 2005 and again one week previously on the 12 October 2012.

Gadwall	400
Eurasian Wigeon	30
Mallard	270
Northern Pintail	210
Red-crested Pochard	570
Common Pochard	8100

No. male	652
No. female	242
No. sexed	894
% male	73
% female	27
Ferruginous Duck NT	663
Tufted Duck	95
Great Crested Grebe	25
Great Cormorant	20
Barbary Falcon	1
Common Coot	3420
Brown-headed Gull	2
Black-headed Gull	250
Pallas's Gull	20
Yellow-legged Gull	3
Horned Lark	4

Present summary table detailing the three times that I've visited Tuokayi reservoir.

Weather

Another markedly poor day. 12°C and heavily overcast (7/8) with a strong west-south-west wind when we arrived at Xike'er reservoir at 08h00. It felt much cooler in the wind than it actually was. The cloud broke slightly up as the morning went on – but it remained cool, and increasingly windy, for the rest of the day.

Common Pheasant	2 were heard at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)
Ruddy Shelduck	140 on Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)
Gadwall	2245 in the Jiashi-Atushi area on the 19/10/2012 with 1845 on Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi & 400 on Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Eurasian Wigeon	80 in the Jiashi-Atushi area on the 19/10/2012 with 50 on Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi & 30 on Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Mallard	330 in the Jiashi-Atushi area on the 19/10/2012 with 60 on Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi & 270 on Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Northern Pintail	210 on Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 19/10/2012. (1250 metres)
Eurasian Teal	5 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)
Red-crested Pochard	600 in the Jiashi-Atushi area on the 19/10/2012 with 30 on Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi & 570 on Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Common Pochard	8530 in the Jiashi-Atushi area on the 19/10/2012 with 430 on Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi & 8100 on Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. A sample count of 894 birds at Tuokayi yielded 652 males (73%) & 242 females (27%)(1175 & 1250 metres)
Ferruginous Duck NT	665 in the Jiashi-Atushi area on the 19/10/2012 with just two on Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi & 663 (nine less than one week earlier!) on Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Tufted Duck	95 on Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 19/10/2012. (1250 metres)
Duck sp.	600 on Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)
Great Crested Grebe	60 in the Jiashi-Atushi area on the 19/10/2012 with 35 on Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi & 25 on Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Black-necked Grebe	8 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)
Black Stork	42 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)
Grey Heron	99 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)
Great Egret	17 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)
Great Cormorant	1040 in the Jiashi-Atushi area on the 19/10/2012 with 1020 on Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi & 20 on Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Hen Harrier	1 ringtail at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)
Common Kestrel	1 near Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)
Barbary Falcon	1 adult besides Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 19/10/2012. (1250 metres)
Common Coot	3710 in the Jiashi-Atushi area on the 19/10/2012 with 290 on Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi & 3420 on Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Common Redshank	1 was heard at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)
Common Greenshank	1 was heard at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)
Green Sandpiper	1 was heard at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)
Dunlin	1 was heard at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)
Brown-headed Gull	3 in the Jiashi-Atushi area on the 19/10/2012 with a first-winter on Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi & two adults on a fishpond besides Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. One of the adults at the latter site was photographed. (1175 & 1250 metres)



Brown-headed (left) & Black-headed Gull at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi

Black-headed Gull	1000 in the Jiashi-Atushi area on the 19/10/2012 with 750 on Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi & 250 on Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Pallas's Gull	90 in the Jiashi-Atushi area on the 19/10/2012 with 70 on Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi & 20 around Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Yellow-legged Gull	7 in the Jiashi-Atushi area on the 19/10/2012 with four besides Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi & three at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
Eurasian Collared Dove	3 on route to Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 19/10/2012. (<i>ca.</i> 1220 metres)
Carrion Crow	42 in the Jiashi-Atushi area on the 19/10/2012 with 30 near Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi & 12 on route to Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. (1175 & <i>ca.</i> 1200 metres)
Hooded Crow	8 in the Jiashi-Atushi area on the 19/10/2012 with seven near Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi & one on route to Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. (1175 & <i>ca.</i> 1200 metres)
Asian Short-toed Lark	1 was heard over Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)
Crested Lark	10 at various points around Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)
Horned Lark	4 near Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 19/10/2012. (1250 metres)
Chinese Hill Babbler	2 were heard in scrub near Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)
Common Starling	2 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)
Desert Wheatear	3 at Guleluk xiang on route to Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 19/10/2012. (<i>ca.</i> 1200 metres)
Wheatear sp.	1 bird, probably a Desert Wheatear, was seen briefly at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)
Saxaul Sparrow	62, in flocks of 3. 5. 5. 6, 6, 7 & 30 birds flew west near Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	50 in the Jiashi-Atushi area on the 19/10/2012 with 20 near Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi & 40 more between there & Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. (1175 & <i>ca.</i> 1200 metres)
Desert Finch	1 flew west at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)

Saturday 20 October 2012. Flew Kashi to Urumqi & then again from there back to Beijing.

GOU Jun & my China Southern flight (CZ6885) left Kashi at 11h55 and arrived in Urumqi at 13h35. We said our goodbyes and I then connected with a second flight back to Beijing. The latter (CZ6903) was scheduled to leave Urumqi at 14h45 and to reach Beijing at 18h30 – and it did just that.

BIRD LIST

Four figures are given in parentheses - the first two of these figures details how many days out of 16, that particular species was seen in Xinjiang. The third figure notes the highest daily count and the fourth the number of bird-days. The second set of parentheses presents the altitudinal range that particular species was encountered at. Hence the entry for Common Pheasant reads (6/16 8 22) - birds were noted on six of the 16 days, with up to eight individuals on any one date and with a total of 22 bird-days.

Names, order and taxonomy follow the IOC World Bird Names accessed on-line on 15 Sept. 2011.

COMMON PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus* 雉鸡

(6/16 8 22) (370-1270 metres)

1 at Dachuangou reservoir, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)

8 in Shule on the 11/10/2012 with seven seen at Tazihong reservoir & one heard at the Yapuquan wetland. (1270 metres)

2 were heard around Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache on the 13/10/2012. (1200 metres)

7 at Ailixihu upper reservoir, Shache on the 16/10/2012. (1180 metres)

2 singles at Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)

2 were heard at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)

SWAN GOOSE *Anser cygnoides* VU 鸿雁

(1/16 1 1) (500 metres)

1 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres) (GOU Jun)

TAIGA BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis* 豆雁

(1/16 14 14) (1120 metres)

14 at Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1120 metres)

TUNDRA BEAN GOOSE *Anser serrirostris* 短嘴豆雁

(4/16 6 11) (370-1270 metres)

3 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)

6 at Dachuangou reservoir, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)

1 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 12/10/2012. (1250 metres)

1 at Yapuquan reservoir, Shule on the 13/10/2012. (1270 metres)

TAIGA or TUNDRA BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis* or *A. serrirostris*

(3/16 52 56) (420-1175 metres)

52 at the Anjihai reservoirs, Shawan on the 7/10/2012 with four at Anjihai reservoir No. 1 & 48 at Res. No. 2. (420-435 metres)

1 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 12/10/2012. (1175 metres)

3 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. They were near Km 13 & south of the cement works on the reservoir's eastern border road (route S230. (1090 metres)

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser* 灰雁

(11/16 815 1630) (370-1250 metres)

137 in the Wolonggang reservoir/Bayi reservoir area on the 4/10/2012 with 15 on Wolonggang reservoir, Miqian & 122 on Bayi reservoir, Wujiaqu. (500 metres)

73 at Dachuangou reservoir, Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. (380 metres)

226 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 56 of these were at Moguhu & the other 170 at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)

815 at the Anjihai reservoirs, Shawan on the 7/10/2012 with 495 at Anjihai reservoir No. 1 & 320 at Res. No. 2. (420-435 metres)

35 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)

44 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)

1 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 12/10/2012. (1250 metres)

103 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with 15 on Mijidong reservoir & 88 at the Yigaiierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)

63 at Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1120 metres)

2 at Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)

19 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus* 大天鹅

(1/16 17 17) (1090 metres)

17, 12 adults & five immatures, on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. Birds were seen in two discrete flocks, the first of 12 and the second of five. (1090 metres)

SWAN SP. *Cygnus sp.*

(1/16 9 9) (1090 metres)

9 at Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 17/10/2012. Considering that I saw 17 Whooper Swans at this site the following day it seems highly likely that's what these nine birds also were. (1090 metres)

COMMON SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna* 翘鼻麻鸭

(2/16 38 65) (370 and 500 metres)

38 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)

27 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea* 赤麻鸭

(14/16 835 3343) (370-1325 metres)

385 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)

745 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. 625 of these were on Moguhu with another 120 on neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)

785 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 685 of these were at Moguhu & the other 100 at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)

835 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)

50 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)

20 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)

211 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 25 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & 186 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)

61 in Shule & Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. These involved 23 on Yapuquan reservoir, Shule; 35 on Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha & three on Akeer reservoir, Yingjisha. (1270-1325 metres)

12 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with just four, two pairs, at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir & eight at the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)

4 in Shache on the 15/10/2012 with two besides Ailixihu upper reservoir & two more besides Sukuqiake reservoir. (1180 metres)

9 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012 with five on Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti & four on Honghai reservoir, Baqu. (1120-1130 metres)

43 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with 33 in Baqu (20 on Honghai & 13 on Weixin reservoirs respectively) and 10 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke. (1090-1120 metres)

43 from the causeway between Yonganba north & south reservoirs, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)

140 on Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)

GADWALL *Anas strepera* 赤膀鸭

(14/16 4645 18626) (370-1325 metres)

735 in the Wolonggang reservoir/Bayi reservoir area on the 4/10/2012 with 15 on Wolonggang reservoir, Miqian & 720 on Bayi reservoir, Wujiaqu. (500 metres)

435 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. 420 of these were on Moguhu with another 15 on neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)

1250 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 1240 of these were at Moguhu & the other 10 at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)

420 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)

Present but not counted at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)

930 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)

1750 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 470 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & 1280 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)

76 in Shule, Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. These involved 20 on Yapuquan reservoir, Shule; 26 on Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha; 15 on Akeer reservoir, Yingjisha & 15 more on Dong Fang He west reservoir, Shache. (1220-1325 metres)

74 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with 70 on Mijidong reservoir & four at the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)

60 in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012. 36 of these were in Shache with 20 on Ailixihu upper reservoir & 16 on Sukuqiake reservoir while the other 24 were on Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)

2200 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012. These involved 11 on Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti and 2190 in Baqu with 190 on Honghai reservoir & 2000 on Weixin reservoir. (1120-1130 metres)

3805 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with 2305 in Baqu (295 on Honghai & 2010 on Weixin reservoirs respectively) and 1500 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke. (1090-1120 metres)

4645 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. 2585 were counted from the reservoir's northern border road, 95 more near the cement works on the eastern road & 1965 at Km 14, a little further south, on this same eastern road, route S230. (1090 metres)

2245 in the Jiashi-Atushi area on the 19/10/2012 with 1845 on Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi & 400 on Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. (1175 & 1250 metres)

EURASIAN WIGEON *Anas penelope* 赤颈鸭

(14/16 420 1576) (370-1320 metres)

20 in the Wolonggang reservoir/Bayi reservoir area on the 4/10/2012 with five on Wolonggang reservoir, Miqian & 15 on Bayi reservoir, Wujiaqu. (500 metres)

140 at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)

255 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)

30 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)

Present but not counted at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)

173 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)

380 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 310 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & 70 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)

13 in the Shule & Yingjisha areas on the 13/10/2012. These involved three on Yapuquan reservoir, Shule & 10 on Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha. (1270-1320 metres)

11 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with eight on Mijidong reservoir & three at the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)

10 on Ailixihu upper reservoir, Shache on the 15/10/2012. (1180 metres)

6 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012 with just one on Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti & five on Honghai reservoir, Baqu. (1120-1130 metres)

38 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with 18 in Baqu (15 on Honghai & three on Weixin reservoirs respectively) and 20 on Yonganba north

reservoir, Tumushuke. (1090-1120 metres)
420 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. 35 were counted from the reservoir's northern border road, 20 more near the cement works on the eastern road & 365 at Km 14, a little further south, on this same eastern road, route S230. (1090 metres)
80 in the Jiashi-Atushi area on the 19/10/2012 with 50 on Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi & 30 on Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. (1175 & 1250 metres)

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* 绿头鸭

(14/16 4750 16275) (370-1325 metres)

4701 in the Wujiagu-Miquan area on the 4/10/2012. These involved one over the Shang Yuchang Baohuqu, Qingedahu, Wujiagu; 150 on Wolonggang reservoir, Miquan & 4550 on Bayi reservoir, Wujiagu. (500 metres)
3520 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. 3500 of these were on Moguhu with another 20 on neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)
4750 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 4700 of these were at Moguhu & the other 50 at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)
500 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Present but not counted at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
1150 in the Kashi-Shule area on the 11/10/2012. 870 of these were on Tazihong reservoir, Shule with another 280 on Yalang reservoir, Kashi. (1265 metres)
730 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 450 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & 280 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
83 in the Shule, Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. These involved 15 on Yapuquan reservoir, Shule; 43 on Yingjisha reservoir & 14 on Akeer reservoir, both Yingjisha; in Shache there were six on Dong Fang He east reservoir & five on the west reservoir. (1220-1325 metres)
40 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with six at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, 30 on Mijidong reservoir & four at the Yigaiertqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
22 in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012. 12 of these were in Shache with 10 on Ailixihu upper reservoir & two on Sukuqiake reservoir while the other 10 were on Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)
293 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012. These involved eight on Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti and 285 in Baqu with 185 on Honghai reservoir & 100 on Weixin reservoir. (1120-1130 metres)
81 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with 41 in Baqu (31 on Honghai & 10 on Weixin reservoirs respectively) and 40 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke. (1090-1120 metres)
75 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
330 in the Jiashi-Atushi area on the 19/10/2012 with 60 on Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi & 270 on Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. (1175 & 1250 metres)

NORTHERN SHOVELER *Anas clypeata* 琵嘴鸭

(12/16 420 848) (370-1325 metres)

420 in the Wolonggang reservoir/Bayi reservoir area on the 4/10/2012 with 55 on Wolonggang reservoir, Miquan & 365 on Bayi reservoir, Wujiagu. (500 metres)
160 at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
15 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
5 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
72 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
16 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 12 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & four at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
37 in Shule, Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. These involved three on Yapuquan reservoir, Shule; 25 on Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha; four on Akeer reservoir, Yingjisha & five more on Dong Fang He west reservoir, Shache. (1220-1325 metres)
42 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with 40 on Mijidong reservoir & two more at the Yigaiertqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
47 in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012 with 24 on Ailixihu upper reservoir, Shache & 23 on Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)
3 on Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1120 metres)
6 on Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)
25 in the north-western corner of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)

NORTHERN PINTAIL *Anas acuta* 针尾鸭

(14/16 1130 3101) (370-1325 metres)

220 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
250, including a strikingly attractive cream-coloured leucistic bird, at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
1130 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 1125 of these were at Moguhu & the other five at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)
190 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
Present but not counted at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
225 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
585 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 480 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & 105 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
21 in the Shule, Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. These involved eight on Yapuquan reservoir, Shule; 8 on Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha & five more on Dong Fang He west reservoir, Shache. (1220-1325 metres)
135 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with 130 on Mijidong reservoir & five more at the Yigaiertqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
99 in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012 with 20 on Ailixihu upper reservoir, Shache & 79 on Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)
22 in Baqu on the 16/10/2012 with two on Honghai reservoir & 20 on Weixin reservoir. (1120 metres)
4 on Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)
10 in the north-western corner of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
210 on Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 19/10/2012. (1250 metres)

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula* 白眉鸭

(3/16 2 4) (370, 1200 and 1270 metres)

2 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
1 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
1 on Mijidong reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1200 metres)

EURASIAN TEAL *Anas crecca* 绿翅鸭

(14/16 1086 4173) (370-1325 metres)

90 in the Wolonggang reservoir/Bayi reservoir area on the 4/10/2012 with 10 on Wolonggang reservoir, Miqian & 80 on Bayi reservoir, Wujiagu. (500 metres)

670 at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)

775 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 750 of these were at Moguhu & the other 25 at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)

50 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)

Present but not counted at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)

880 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)

85 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 75 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & 10 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)

410 in Shule, Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. These involved 227 on Yapuquan reservoir, Shule; 98 on Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha; 75 on Akeer reservoir, Yingjisha & 10 more on Dong Fang He west reservoir, Shache. (1220-1325 metres)

1086 in Shache on the 14/10/2012. These involved 10 at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, one close to the roadside fishponds also near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, 1060 on Mijidong reservoir & 15 at the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)

19 in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012 with four on Ailixihu upper reservoir, Shache & 15 on Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)

16 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012. These involved 10 on Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti and six in Baqu with just one on Honghai reservoir & five on Weixin reservoir. (1120-1130 metres)

55 in Baqu on the 17/10/2012 with 45 on Honghai reservoir & 10 on Weixin reservoir. (1120 metres)

32 from the causeway between the Yonganba north & south reservoirs, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)

5 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina* 赤嘴潜鸭**(13/16 600 2094) (370-1270 metres)**

44 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)

48 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 46 of these were at Moguhu & the other two at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)

1 at Anjihai Res. No. 1 on the 7/10/2012. (435 metres)

8 near Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)

51 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)

481 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 475 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & just six at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)

52 in the Shule & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. These involved eight on Yapuquan reservoir, Shule & 20 on Dong Fang He west reservoir, Shache. (1220-1270 metres)

126 in Shache on the 14/10/2012. These involved 50 on the roadside fishponds also near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, 74 on Mijidong reservoir & two at the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)

2 at Ailixihu upper reservoir, Shache on the 16/10/2012. (1180 metres)

12 at Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti on the 16/10/2012. (1130 metres)

102 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with two on Weixin reservoir, Baqu & 100 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke. (1090-1120 metres)

567 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. Almost all of these were seen from the reservoir's northern border road. (1090 metres)

600 in the Jiashi-Atushi area on the 19/10/2012 with 30 on Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi & 570 on Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. (1175 & 1250 metres)

COMMON POCHARD *Aythya ferina* 红头潜鸭**(13/16 8530 18778) (370-1325 metres)**

9, including seven adult males, at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)

11 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. Nine of these were on Moguhu with another two on neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)

98 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 93 of these were at Moguhu & the other five at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)

3 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)

555 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. A remarkable 520 (94%) of these were males! (1270 metres)

6810 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 6690 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & 120 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. 583 birds were sexed at the Tuokayi and 72% were male, 28 % female. (1175 & 1250 metres)

288 in Shule, Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. These involved 47 on Yapuquan reservoir, Shule; 236 on Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha & five on Dong Fang He west reservoir, Shache. (1220-1325 metres)

417 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with 410 on Mijidong reservoir & seven at the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)

672 in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012 with 170 on Ailixihu upper reservoir, Shache & 502 on Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)

235 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012. These involved 20 on Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti and 215 in Baqu with 15 on Honghai reservoir & 200 on Weixin reservoir. (1120-1130 metres)

205 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with 200 on Weixin reservoir, Baqu & five on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke. (1090-1120 metres)

945 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. 490 were counted from the reservoir's northern border road, 30 more near the cement works on the eastern road & 425 at Km 14, a little further south, on this same eastern road, route S230. (1090 metres)

8530 in the Jiashi-Atushi area on the 19/10/2012 with 430 on Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi & 8100 on Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. A sample count of 894 birds at Tuokayi yielded 652 males (73%) & 242 females (27%)(1175 & 1250 metres)

FERRUGINOUS DUCK *Aythya nyroca* NT 白眼潜鸭**(13/16 674 2088) (370-1320 metres)**

15 in the Wolonggang reservoir/Bayi reservoir area on the 4/10/2012 with 12 on Wolonggang reservoir, Miqian & three on Bayi reservoir, Wujiagu. (500 metres)

4 males at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)

4 males at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)

1 at Anjihai Res. No. 1 on the 7/10/2012. (435 metres)

17 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)

674 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 672 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & just two at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)

9 in the Shule & Yingjisha areas on the 13/10/2012. There were three on Yapuquan reservoir, Shule & six on Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha. (1270-1320 metres)

38 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with 34 on Mijidong reservoir & four recent & locally fledged birds, on Yigai'erqi reservoir. (1200-1220 metres)

312 in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012 with five on Ailixihu upper reservoir, Shache & 307 on Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)

12 at Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti on the 16/10/2012. (1130 metres)

15 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with five in Baqu (three on Honghai & two on Weixin reservoirs respectively) and 10 on Yonganba north

reservoir, Tumushuke. (1090-1120 metres)
322 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. 26 were counted from the reservoir's northern border road, 271 more near the cement works on the eastern road & 25 at Km 14, a little further south, on this same eastern road, route S230. (1090 metres)
665 in the Jiashi-Atushi area on the 19/10/2012 with just two on Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi & 663 (nine less than one week earlier!) on Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. (1175 & 1250 metres)

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula* 凤头潜鸭

(12/16 3090 4272) (370-1325 metres)

39 in Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. These involved four males in flight over the Shang Yuchang Baohuqu, Qingdahu and 35 on Bayi reservoir. (500 metres)
57 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
13 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
74 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
210 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 205 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & just five at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
261 in the Shule, Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. These involved 36 on Yapuquan reservoir, Shule; 205 on Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha & 20 on Dong Fang He west reservoir, Shache. (1220-1325 metres)
215 on Mijidong reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1200 metres)
57 in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012 with 35 on Ailixihu upper reservoir, Shache & 22 on Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)
14 in Baqu on the 16/10/2012 with four on Honghai reservoir & 10 on Weixin reservoir. (1120 metres)
147 in Baqu on the 17/10/2012 with two on Honghai reservoir & 145 on Weixin reservoir. (1120 metres)
3090 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. 330 of these were counted from the reservoir's northern border road & 2760 at Km 14 on the eastern road, route S230. (1090 metres)
95 on Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 19/10/2012. (1250 metres)

COMMON GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula* 鹊鸭

(2/16 1 2) (370 and 1320 metres)

1 at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
1 at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. (1320 metres)

COMMON MERGANSER *Mergus merganser* 普通秋沙鸭

(1/16 1 1) (1325 metres)

1 redhead at Akeer reservoir, Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. (1325 metres)

DUCK SP.

(9/16 1000 3500) (370-1220 metres)

50 very distant birds on Dachuangou reservoir, Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. (380 metres)
60 at the Anjihai reservoirs, Shawan on the 7/10/2012 with 50 at Anjihai reservoir No. 1 & 10 at Res. No. 2. (420-435 metres)
800 near Shihezi on the 8/10/2012 with 500 on Moguhu & 300 on Dachuangou. (370-380 metres)
Present but not counted at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
1000 extremely distant birds were at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 12/10/2012. (1175 metres)
590 at Dong Fang Hu west reservoir, Shache on the 13/10/2012. (1220 metres)
30 at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)
200 on Sukuqiake reservoir, Shache on the 15/10/2012. (1180 metres)
120 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012 with 20 on Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti & 100 on Honghai reservoir, Baqu. (1120-1130 metres)
100 on Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)
600 on Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)

BLACK-THROATED LOON *Gavia arctica* 黑喉潜鸟

(1/16 1 1) (1200 metres)

1 at Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache on the 13/10/2012. Perhaps the first record for southern Xinjiang. (1200 metres)

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* 小鸊鷉

(1/16 4 4) (1120 metres)

4 on Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1120 metres)

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus* 凤头鸊鷉

(14/16 422 1506) (370-1325 metres)

5 in Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. These involved three on Qingdahu & two on Bayi reservoir. (500 metres)
9 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. Six of these were on Moguhu with another three on neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)
8 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. Six of these were at Moguhu & the other two at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)
5 at the Anjihai reservoirs, Shawan on the 7/10/2012 with two at Anjihai reservoir No. 1 & three at Res. No. 2. (420-435 metres)
6 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
123 in Shule on the 11/10/2012. 121 of these were on Tazihong reservoir and two more on Dong Fang Hong reservoir. (1265 metres)
422 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 65 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & 357 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
85 in the Shule, Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. These involved 21 on Yapuquan reservoir, Shule; 23 on Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha; 15 on Akeer reservoir, Yingjisha & 26 more on Dong Fang He east reservoir, Shache. (1220-1325 metres)

26 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with 19 on Mijidong reservoir, three on Dunbage reservoir & four on Yigai'erqi reservoir. (1200-1220 metres)
69 in Shache on the 15/10/2012 with 52 on Ailixihu upper reservoir & 17 on Sukuqiake reservoir. (1180 metres)
201 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012. These involved 134 on Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti and 67 in Baqu with 17 on Honghai reservoir & 50 on Weixin reservoir. (1120-1130 metres)
385 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012. These involved 282 in Baqu with 84 on Honghai reservoir & 198 on Weixin reservoir while there were also 103 in Tumushuke with three on Xiaohaizi reservoir & 100 on Yonganba north reservoir. (1090-1120 metres)
107 on the Yonganba reservoirs, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. 92 were seen at various sites around the north reservoir and 15 on the southern one. (1090 metres)
60 in the Jiashi-Atushi area on the 19/10/2012 with 35 on Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi & 25 on Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. (1175 & 1250 metres)

HORNED GREBE *Podiceps auritus* 角鸬鹚

(1/16 3 3) (1270 metres)

3 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis* 黑颈鸬鹚

(8/16 204 341) (370-1320 metres)

9 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)

1 at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)

41 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)

9 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved five at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & four at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)

15 on Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. (1320 metres)

3 on Mijidong reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1200 metres)

52 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012 with 42 on Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti and 10 on Weixin reservoir, Baqu. (1120-1130 metres)

204 on Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)

8 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)

BLACK STORK *Ciconia nigra* 黑鹳

(4/16 42 61) (370-1210 metres)

1 adult at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)

17 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 12/10/2012. (1175 metres)

1 first-year flew over the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)

42 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)

EURASIAN SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia* 白琵鹭

(1/16 9 9) (500 metres)

9 first-years at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)

LITTLE BITTERN *Ixobrychus minutus* 小苇千鸟

(1/16 1 1) (500 metres)

1 flightless first-winter with a broken wing near Qingedahu, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax* 夜鹭

(1/16 1 1) (1270 metres)

1 was heard at Dong Fang Hong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* 苍鹭

(15/16 134 657) (370-1320 metres)

71 in the Wujiaqu-Miquan area on the 4/10/2012. These involved three at Wolonggang reservoir, Miquan, four at Qingedahu and 64 at Bayi reservoir (the latter two sites both in Wujiaqu). (500 metres)

134 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. 42 of these were on Moguhu with another 92 on neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)

128 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 41 of these were at Moguhu & the other 87 at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)

3 at the Anjihai reservoirs, Shawan on the 7/10/2012 with two at Anjihai reservoir No. 1 & one at Res. No. 2. (420-435 metres)

42 near Shihezi on the 8/10/2012 with 30 on Moguhu & 12 on Dachuangou. (370-380 metres)

32 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)

18 in the Kashi-Shule area on the 11/10/2012. Seven of these were at Tazihong reservoir, Shule with another 1 besides Yalang reservoir, Kashi. (1265 metres)

68 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved just three at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & 65 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)

11 in the Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012 with four besides Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha & seven more besides Dong Fang Hu reservoir west, Shache. (1200 & 1320 metres)

13 at the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)

17 in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012. Seven of these were in Shache with three on Ailixihu upper reservoir & four on Sukuqiake reservoir while the other 10 were in Maigaiti with two besides the Ye'ercheng river & eight on Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)

4 around Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1120 metres)

9 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with eight besides Weixin reservoir, Baqu & one high over Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke. (1090-1120 metres)

8 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)

99 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)

GREAT EGRET *Ardea alba*

(13/16 205 657) (370-1270 metres)

67 in the Wujiaqu-Miquan area on the 4/10/2012. There were 13 at Wolonggang reservoir, Miquan while the other 54 were in Wujiaqu with 23 near Qingedahu & 31 at Bayi reservoir. (500 metres)

205 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. 163 of these were on Moguhu with another 42 on neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)

106 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 50 of these were at Moguhu & the other 56 at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)

23 at Anjihai reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (420 metres)

111 near Shihezi on the 8/10/2012 with 43 on Moguhu & 68 on Dachuangou. (370-380 metres)

57 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)

13 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)

9 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 12/10/2012. (1175 metres)

3 at the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)

26 in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012. Six of these were in Shache with two on Ailixihu upper reservoir & four on Sukuqiake reservoir while the other 20 were on Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)

9 at Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)

1 in the northwest corner of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)

17 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)

GREAT CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo* 普通鸬鹚

(14/16 5220 23331) (370-1325 metres)

1775 in the Wujiaqu-Miquan area on the 4/10/2012. There were 110 at Wolonggang reservoir, Miquan while the other 1665 were in Wujiaqu with 760 near Qingedahu & 905 at Bayi reservoir. (500 metres)

4470 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. 4100 of these were on Moguhu with another 370 on neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)

5220 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 4500 of these were at Moguhu & the other 720 at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)

2 at Anjihai Res. No. 1 on the 7/10/2012. (435 metres)

4500 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. 675 were counted leaving Moguhu and flying east, perhaps to Dachuangou, in the period between 20 and 10 minutes before official sunrise (08h00-08h10) and no sooner had it finished than there was a similar movement of Black-headed Gulls! (370 metres)

29 in the Kashi-Shule area on the 11/10/2012. 14 of these were at Tazihong reservoir, Shule with another 15 besides Yalang reservoir, Kashi. (1265 metres)

1190 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 25 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & 1165 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)

372 in the Shule, Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. These involved two at Yapuquan reservoir, Shule; 240 on Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha; 20 on Akeer reservoir, Yingjisha & 110 on Dong Fang He west reservoir, Shache. (1220-1325 metres)

1515 in Shache on the 14/10/2012. These involved 110 at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, 1375 on Mijidong reservoir, five on Dunbage reservoir & 25 at the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)

845 in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012. 125 of these were in Shache with 40 on Ailixihu upper reservoir, five on Ailixihu lower reservoir & 80 on Sukuqiake reservoir. Elsewhere there were 720 on Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)

120 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012. These involved 80 on Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti and 400 in Baqu with 30 on Honghai reservoir & 10 on Weixin reservoir. (1120-1130 metres)

128 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with 23 on Weixin reservoir, Baqu & 105 in Tumushuke (with five besides the Rengong river (about 3 Kms upstream from Xiaohaizi res.) & 100 on Yonganba north reservoir. (1090-1120 metres)

2125 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. This count was made as from the northern border road as they all flew west at 10h50 & on to the fishponds. Small numbers of birds were seen at various other sites during the rest of the day but it's quite possibly that these would be part of this same early morning flock and they are not included in the daily total. (1090 metres)

1040 in the Jiashi-Atushi area on the 19/10/2012 with 1020 on Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi & 20 on Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. (1175 & 1250 metres)

WESTERN OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* 鸢

(4/16 2 5) (370-1320 metres)

1 at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)

1 at Dachuangou reservoir, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)

1 juvenile at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 12/10/2012. (1250 metres)

2, at least one of which was an adult, at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. (1320 metres)

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans* 黑鸢

(3/16 3 8) (370-500 metres)

3 singles in the Wujiaqu-Miquan area on the 4/10/2012. These involved one near Wolonggang reservoir, Miquan; another near Qingedahu and the final bird close to Bayi reservoir (the latter two sites both in Wujiaqu). (500 metres)

2 singles near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012 with sightings near Moguhu & at neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)

3 juveniles at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)

WESTERN MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus* 白头鹞

(4/16 5 12) (1090-1220 metres)

5 juveniles in Shache on the 14/10/2012. Birds were seen at three separate sites as follows - one at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, another near Mijidong reservoir & three at the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)

5 juveniles in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012. Four of these were in Shache with three around Ailixihu upper reservoir & one at Sukuqiake reservoir while the other was at Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)

1 juvenile over the small marsh near the northern end of Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1120 metres)

1 juvenile in the northwest corner of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus* 白尾鹞
(6/16 15 21) (370-1220 metres)



- 1 adult male at Anjihai reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (420 metres)
1 juvenile at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
15, including four adult males, in Shache on the 14/10/2012. Birds were seen at three separate sites as follows - three (two ringtails and an adult male) at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir; two, including another adult male, at Yigai'erqi reservoir & 10, including at least two adult males at the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
1 ringtail at Sukuqiake reservoir, Shache on the 15/10/2012. (1180 metres)
2 singles in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with a ringtail near Weixin reservoir, Baqu & an adult male near Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke. (1090 & 1120 metres)
1 ringtail at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)

EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus* 雀鹰
(5/16 2 6) (650-1270 metres)

- 1 at kilometre post 10 on route X814 near Xigebi, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (650 metres)
1 flew west at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
2 singles in Shache on the 14/10/2012 - the first was over the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir while the other was over the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
1 at Sukuqiake reservoir, Shache on the 15/10/2012. (1180 metres)
1 juvenile at Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)

ACCIPITER SP.

- (1/16 2 2) (1210 metres)
2 singles over the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)

COMMON BUZZARD *Buteo buteo* 欧亚鵟
(9/16 3 12) (370-1250 metres)



- 1 near Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
- 1 near Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
- 1 juvenile at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
- 1 flew west at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 12/10/2012. (1250 metres)
- 3 separate birds in Shache on the 14/10/2012 - one close to the roadside fishponds also near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, another near the Mijidong reservoir & the third near the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
- 1 at Sukuqiake reservoir, Shache on the 15/10/2012. (1180 metres)
- 1 adult at kilometre post 7 in 48 Tuan, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1130 metres)
- 1 adult near Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)
- 2 singles around Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)

LONG-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo rufinus* 棕尾鵟

(3/16 1 3) (615, 1090 and 1180 metres)

- 1 about three kilometres west of Urumqi airport on 9/10/2012. (615 metres)
- 1 at Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti on the 15/10/2012. (1180 metres)
- 1 near the northern end of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)

COMMON KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus* 红隼

(13/16 12 43) (370-1325 metres)

- 5 singles in the Wujiaqu-Miquan area on the 4/10/2012. Sightings were near the Shang Yuchang Baohuqu & at Qingedahu itself, at Wolonggang reservoir, Miquan & near Bayi reservoir. (500 metres)
- 2 singles near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012 with sightings near Moguhu & at neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)
- 1 near Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
- 2 singles in Shawan on the 7/10/2012 - the first was near Xigebi & the second close to Anjihai reservoir No. 1. (435 & 650 metres)
- 4 singles in the Kashi-Shule area on the 11/10/2012. These included singles near Shule town, near Tazihong reservoir, Shule & near Yalang reservoir, Kashi. (1390 metres)
- 3 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012 - with one at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & two singles near Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
- 4 singles in the Shule, Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. Two birds were seen at Yapuquan reservoir, Shule and singles near the Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha & at Dong Fang He east reservoir, Shache. (1200-1325 metres)
- 12 in Shache on the 14/10/2012. Birds were seen as follows - two at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, three close to the roadside fishponds also near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, three near Mijidong reservoir, one at Yigai'erqi reservoir and three at the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
- 4 in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012 with one at Sukuqiake reservoir, Shache & three around Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)
- 2 near Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti on the 16/10/2012. (1130 metres)
- 2 singles in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with the first near Weixin reservoir, Baqu & the other close to Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke. (1090 & 1120 metres)
- 1 over Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
- 1 near Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)

MERLIN *Falco columbarius* 灰背隼

(2/16 1 2) (370 and 500 metres)

- 1 near the Shang Yuchang Protection Station, Qingedahu, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
- 1 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)

EURASIAN HOBBY *Falco subbuteo* 燕隼

(1/16 2 2) (1200 metres)

2 at Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache on the 13/10/2012. (1200 metres)

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus* 游隼

(5/16 1 5) (370-1270 metres)

1 juvenile at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)

1 juvenile at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. It looked very much like a juvenile Barbary Falcon. (370 metres)

1 adult 'Shaheen' *F. p. peregrinator* at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)

1 juvenile near Yigaierqi reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)

1 adult at Sukuqiake reservoir, Shache on the 15/10/2012. (1180 metres)

BARBARY FALCON *Falco pelegrinoides* 拟游隼

(2/16 2 3) (1250-1320 metres)

2 singles on the 13/10/2012 - with one at Yapuquan reservoir, Shule & the other at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha. (1270 & 1320 metres)

1 adult besides Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 19/10/2012. (1250 metres)

PEREGRINE or BARBARY FALCON *Falco peregrinus* or *F. peregrinus* 游隼 or 拟游隼

(1/16 1 1) (1250 metres)

1 very distant bird at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 12/10/2012. Interesting to note that I saw an Adult Barbary Falcon here on my second visit. (1250 metres)

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus* 西方秧鸡

(1/16 1 1) (500 metres)

1 was heard near the Shang Yuchang Protection Station, Qingedahu, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)

COMMON MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* 黑水鸡

(3/16 4 6) (500-1180 metres)

4 in the Wujiagu-Miquan area on the 4/10/2012. These involved one at Wolonggang reservoir, Miquan; one at Shang Yuchang Baohuqu, Qingedahu, and two at Bayi reservoir (the latter two sites both in Wujiagu). (500 metres)

1 was heard at Sukuqiake reservoir, Shache on the 15/10/2012. (1180 metres)

1 on the small marsh near the northern end of Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1120 metres)

EURASIAN COOT *Fulica atra* 骨顶鸡

(15/16 7785 31984) (370-1325 metres)

545 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)

55 at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)

65 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)

55 at the Anjihai reservoirs, Shawan on the 7/10/2012 with 45 at Anjihai reservoir No. 1 & 10 at Res. No. 2. (420-435 metres)

45 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)

15 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)

2750 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)

4210 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 3720 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & 490 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)

215 in the Shule & Yingjisha areas on the 13/10/2012. These involved 25 on Yapuquan reservoir, Shule and 190 in Yingjisha with 175 on Yingjisha reservoir & another 15 on Akeer reservoir. (1270-1325 metres)

715 on Mijidong reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1200 metres)

767 in Shache on the 15/10/2012 with 557 at the Ailixihu upper reservoir & 210 at Sukuqiake reservoir. (1180 metres)

4037 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012. These involved 20 on Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti and 4017 in Baqu with just 17 on Honghai reservoir & about 4000 on Weixin reservoir. (1120-1130 metres)

7785 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with 3785 in Baqu (155 on Honghai & 3630 on Weixin reservoirs respectively) and 4000 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke. (1090-1120 metres)

7015 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. 3820 were counted from the reservoir's northern border road, 150 more near the cement works on the eastern road & 3045 at Km 14, a little further south, on this same eastern road, route S230. Common Coot was the single commonest species on the reservoir. (1090 metres)

3710 in the Jiashi-Atushi area on the 19/10/2012 with 290 on Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi & 3420 on Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. (1175 & 1250 metres)

DEMOISELLE CRANE *Grus virgo* 蓑羽鹤

(1/16 2 2) (1320 metres)

2, a pair, at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. (1320 metres)

COMMON CRANE *Grus grus* 灰鹤

(5/16 645 921) (370-1120 metres)

48 at the Anjihai reservoirs, Shawan on the 7/10/2012 with six at Anjihai reservoir No. 1 & 42 at Res. No. 2. (420-435 metres)

2 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)

2, a pair, on the small marsh near the northern end of Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1120 metres)
224 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with 11 near Honghai reservoir, Baqu & 213 at Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke. (1090-1120 metres)
645 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. 622 birds, in flocks of 22, 30, 30, 70 & 470 flew north & away from the reservoir in just over quarter of an hour (between 08h51 & 09h07 & therefore between five minutes before and 11 minutes after official sunrise) while another 23 were seen in grassland in the reservoir's south-eastern corner mid-afternoon. (1090 metres)

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

(3/16 22 24) (1180-1270 metres)

1 juvenile at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
22 at the Yigaijerqi reservoir reed bed & wetland, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)
1 juvenile at Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti on the 15/10/2012. (1180 metres)

PIED AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta* 反嘴鹬

(2/16 138 144) (500, and 1270-1320 metres)

138 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
6 on the 13/10/2012 - with five at Yapuquan reservoir, Shule & the other at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha. (1270 & 1320 metres)

NORTHERN LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* 凤头麦鸡

(3/16 46 53) (370-1320 metres)

46 at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
1 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
6 on the 13/10/2012 - with two besides the Yapuquan reservoir, Shule & the other four at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha. (1270 & 1320 metres)

PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis fulva* 金斑鸻

(3/16 7 11) (370-1220 metres)

1 was heard at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
3 at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1220 metres)
7 on the small marsh near the northern end of Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1120 metres)

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola* 灰斑鸻

(1/16 6 6) (500 metres)

6 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)

COMMON RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* 剑鸻

(1/16 1 1) (370 metres)

1 was heard on three separate occasions at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)

KENTISH PLOVER *Charadrius alexandrinus* 环颈鸻

(2/16 38 44) (370 metres)

6 at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
38, including a badly oiled bird, at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)

[EURASIAN WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola* 丘鹬

1 bird, possibly this species, was flushed at Aoyitake Forest Park, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (2760 metres)]

COMMON SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago* 扇尾沙锥

(1/16 26 26) (1200-1220 metres)

26 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with two at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir & 24 others at the Yigaijerqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa limosa* NT 黑尾塍鹬

(3/16 5 10) (1090-1320 metres)



1 juvenile at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
 4 juveniles besides the Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. (1320 metres)
 5 juveniles in the north-western corner of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)

EURASIAN CURLEW *Numenius arquata* NT 白腰杓鹬

(6/16 11 32) (370-1320 metres)

3 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
 9 at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
 7 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
 11 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
 1 at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. (1320 metres)
 1 on the small marsh near the northern end of Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1120 metres)

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* 鹤鹬

(5/16 30 54) (500-1270 metres)

30 on Wolonggang reservoir, Miquan on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
 20 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
 2 juveniles at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)
 1 juvenile at Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti on the 15/10/2012. (1180 metres)
 1 juvenile in the north-western corner of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)

COMMON REDSHANK *Tringa totanus* 红脚鹬

(3/16 12 16) (1175-1210 metres)

3 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 12/10/2012. (1175 metres)
 12 at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)
 1 was heard at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)

MARSH SANDPIPER *Tringa stagnatilis* 泽鹬

(1/16 2 2) (1210 metres)

2 juveniles at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)

COMMON GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* 青脚鹬

(7/16 13 29) (500-1270 metres)

1 on Wolonggang reservoir, Miquan on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
 13 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. The six birds that were seen well were all juveniles. (1270 metres)
 8 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 12/10/2012. (1175 metres)
 2 juveniles at Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti on the 15/10/2012. (1180 metres)
 1 was heard at Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 17/10/2012. (1090 metres)

3 singles in the north-western corner of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
1 was heard at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* 白腰草鹞

(8/16 2 10) (500-1265 metres)

2 near the Shang Yuchang Protection Station, Qingedahu, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
2 singles were heard in Shule on the 11/10/2012. The first was at Tazihong reservoir and the other at Dong Fang Hong reservoir. (1265 metres)
1 was heard at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 12/10/2012. (1175 metres)
1 flew over Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache on the 13/10/2012. (1200 metres)
1 was heard over the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)
1 near Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1120 metres)
1 at Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)
1 was heard at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* 林鹞

(2/16 19 20) (1090-1220 metres)

19 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with five over the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir & 14 at the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
1 in the north-western corner of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos* 矶鹞

(1/16 1 1) (1200 metres)

1 besides Mijidong reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (GOU Jun)(1200 metres)

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* 小滨鹞

(3/16 131 148) (1090-1320 metres)

131 juveniles at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. (1320 metres)
9 juveniles at the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)
8 juveniles in the north-western corner of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)

STINT SP.

(1/16 12 12) (1270 metres)

12 very distant & unidentifiable birds at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. They were not Temminck's Stints which almost certainly means that, on status, they would be Little Stints. (1270 metres)

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* 弯嘴滨鹞

(1/16 3 3) (1320 metres)

3 juveniles at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. (1320 metres)

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* 黑腹滨鹞

(6/16 27 56) (370-1320 metres)

7 first-winters at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
1 was heard at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
12 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
27 juveniles at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. (1320 metres)
8 juveniles at the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)
1 was heard at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax* 流苏鹞

(2/16 6 7) (1120 and 1210 metres)

6 juveniles (four males and two females in separate parties of one, two and three) at the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)

1 juvenile male on the small marsh near the northern end of Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1120 metres)

SLENDER-BILLED GULL *Chroicocephalus genei* 细嘴鸥

(2/16 3 5) (1120 and 1320 metres)



3 winter-plumaged adults at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. The first record for southern Xinjiang & perhaps only the fourth for the entire province. One of them was photographed. (1320 metres)
 2 adults at the northern end of Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. One had a strong summer plumage pink flush and both were photographed. (1120 metres)

The first record of Slender-billed Gull from Xinjiang was as recently as 15 May 2008 when one was photographed near the Jinghe river mouth, Aibi Lake [LFei in the 2008 CBR]. A photograph by the finder appears in China Bird Watch 61: June 2008. There are two subsequent reports from the province (GOU Jun pers. comm.) - one of which involved a single bird that was seen at Lliuchengzi Reservoir, 222 Tuan, Fukang on the 22/4/2011 (a 龙, 同步数字, 漠北, blacklark & 小陈 via BirdTalker).

BROWN-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus* 棕头鸥
 (2/16 5 8) (1175 and 1250 metres)



5 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved two (a first-winter & an adult-winter) at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & three first-winters at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
 3 in the Jiashi-Atushi area on the 19/10/2012 with a first-winter on Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi & two adults on a fishpond besides Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. One of the adults at the latter site was photographed. (1175 & 1250 metres)

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* 红嘴鸥
 (14/16 2175 14143) (370-1325 metres)

1580 in the Wujiaqu-Miquan area on the 4/10/2012. There were just 10 at Wolonggang reservoir, Miquan while the other 1570 were in Wujiaqu with 120 near Qingedahu & 1450 on Bayi reservoir. (500 metres)
 870 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. 550 of these were on Moguhu with another 320 on neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)
 1270 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 1100 of these were at Moguhu in the early morning (& had most probably roosted overnight on the reservoir) & the other 170 at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)
 2175 near Shihezi on the 8/10/2012 with this number, 2175, being counted on Moguhu in the very early morning. It appeared that they had roosted here overnight & many were heading off even by 08h30 - the majority flying east, towards Dachuangou. The 300 that were on Dachuangou were very probably part of this early morning flock. (370-380 metres)
 1500 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. At least 600 of these headed high to the east, perhaps to Dachuangou, in the 15 minute period immediately after official sunrise (08h10-08h25) (370 metres)
 390 in the Kashi-Shule area on the 11/10/2012. 80 of these were in Shule with 55 on the Tazihong reservoir & 25 more on the river between there & Kashi. Elsewhere there were 310 on Yalang reservoir, Kashi. (1265 metres)
 990 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 180 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & 810 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
 520 in the Shule, Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. There were 17 besides the Yapuquan reservoir, Shule; in Yingjisha county there were 360 on Yingjisha reservoir, 20 on Akeer reservoir & three on Sakayi reservoir; there were also 120 on Dong Fang He east reservoir, Shache. (1220-1325 metres)
 466 in Shache on the 14/10/2012. These involved 95 at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, six close to the roadside fishponds also near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, 270 on Mijidong reservoir & 95 at the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
 150 in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012 with 75 in Shache (30 Ailixihu upper reservoir & 45 on Sukuqiake reservoir) and 75 besides the bridge

over the Ye'ercheng river, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)
1110 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012. These involved 80 on Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti and 1030 in Baqu with 50 on Honghai reservoir & 980 at an evening roost on Weixin reservoir. (1120-1130 metres)
552 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with 307 in Baqu (157 on Honghai & 150 on Weixin reservoirs respectively). Elsewhere there were 245 in Tumushuke with 15 at Xiaohaizi reservoir, 80 besides the Rengong river (about 3 Kms upstream from Xiaohaizi res.) & 150 on Yonganba north reservoir. (1090-1120 metres)
1570 on the Yonganba reservoirs, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. 430 were counted at various points around the northern reservoir while a tight flock of 1140 were in the very middle of the southern reservoir mid-afternoon. (1090 metres)
1000 in the Jiashi-Atushi area on the 19/10/2012 with 750 on Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi & 250 on Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. (1175 & 1250 metres)

LITTLE GULL *Hydrocoloeus minutus* 小鸥

(2/16 3 5) (1120-1320 metres)

2 widely separate juveniles on the 13/10/2012 - with one on the Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha & the other at Dong Fang Hu east reservoir Shache. The second bird was photographed and these are possibly the first records from southern Xinjiang (GOU Jun pers. comm. 13/10/2012). (1270 & 1320 metres)
3 juveniles on Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)

RELICT GULL *Ichthyaetus relictus* VU 遗鸥

(1/16 1 1) (370 metres)

1 first-winter with a flock of Pallas's & Yellow-legged Gulls at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)

PALLAS'S GULL *Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus* 渔鸥

(14/16 957 3747) (370-1325 metres)

825 in the Wujiagu-Miquan area on the 4/10/2012. There were just 15 at Wolonggang reservoir, Miquan while the other 755 were in Wujiagu with 765 at or near Qingedahu & 45 on Bayi reservoir. (500 metres)
465 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. 235 of these were on Moguhu with another 230 on neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)
450 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 200 of these were at Moguhu & the other 2500 at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)
957 near Shihezi on the 8/10/2012 with 817 on Moguhu & 140 on Dachuangou. (370-380 metres)
340 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
87 in the Kashi-Shule area on the 11/10/2012. 15 of these were in Shule with ten adults on Tazihong reservoir, two on Dong Fang Hong reservoir & three more on the river between there & Kashi. Elsewhere there were 72 on Yalang reservoir, Kashi. (1265 metres)
390 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 160 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & 230 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
50 in the Shule, Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. There was just one besides the Yapuquan reservoir, Shule; 31 at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha; one on Akeer reservoir, Yingjisha & 17 more on Dong Fang He east reservoir, Shache. (1220-1325 metres)
14 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with four at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir & 10 at the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
11 in Shache on the 15/10/2012 with seven at the Ailixihu upper reservoir & four at Sukuqiake reservoir. (1180 metres)
20 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012. These involved four on Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti and 16 in Baqu with four on Honghai reservoir & 10 on Weixin reservoir. (1120-1130 metres)
11 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with five in Baqu (one on Honghai & four on Weixin reservoirs respectively). Elsewhere there were six in Tumushuke with four besides the Rengong river (about 3 Kms upstream from Xiaohaizi res.) & two on Yonganba north reservoir. (1090-1120 metres)
37 on the Yonganba reservoirs, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
90 in the Jiashi-Atushi area on the 19/10/2012 with 70 on Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi & 20 around Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. (1175 & 1250 metres)

HEUGLIN'S GULL *Larus heuglini* 乌灰银鸥

(2/16 2 4) (370 metres)

2 singles near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012 with a third calendar year at Moguhu & an adult at neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres). There are very few previous records of this taxa from Xinjiang – and none from elsewhere in China with the possible exception of Hong Kong.
2 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012 with a second calendar year bird at Moguhu in the morning & an adult at Dachuangou reservoir in the early afternoon. (370-380 metres)

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus cachinnans* 黄脚银鸥

(11/16 612 1972) (370-1265 metres)

612 in the Wujiagu-Miquan area on the 4/10/2012. There were just two at Wolonggang reservoir, Miquan while the other 610 were in Wujiagu with 580 at or near Qingedahu & 30 on Bayi reservoir. (500 metres)
550 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. 140 of these were on Moguhu with another 410 on neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)
350 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 150 of these were at Moguhu & the other 200 at Dachuangou reservoir. In addition an adult showing characters of *barabanesis* was also at Moguhu Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. It was noticeably smaller than the eastern *cachinnans* that it was with, had a shorter & narrower brighter yellow bill with a bright reddish gonys spot & conspicuous dark subterminal band; rounded, high peaked, very clean white head, a tiny and essentially all dark eye (very heavily peppered dark but appearing totally dark at all but the closest of ranges); shorter (probably pale flesh but sometimes appearing to have a yellowish hue - unremarkable and no different to many of the eastern *cachinnans*) legs & slightly darker mantle. It had only just started its primary moult - many of the eastern *cachinnans* here were pretty well advanced in their wing moult. It was photographed – but only poorly & could not be refound on subsequent days. Bearing in mind the wide range of variation in eastern *cachinnans* &, despite multiple trips to Goa, coastal west India, the limited state of my knowledge of these forms I feel that its best to leave this bird as a possible only. (370 metres)(GOU Jun & Paul Holt) (370-380 metres)
400 near Shihezi on the 8/10/2012 with 200 on both Moguhu & Dachuangou. (370-380 metres)
30 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
5 in Shule on the 11/10/2012 with two on the Tazihong reservoir & three more fly-overs between there & Kashi. (1265 metres)
5 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. There was an adult at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & four birds, two adults and two juveniles at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)

5 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012. These involved one on Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti and four in Baqu with three on Honghai reservoir & another on Weixin reservoir. (1120-1130 metres)

1 juvenile on Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)

7 on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)

7 in the Jiashi-Atushi area on the 19/10/2012 with four besides Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi & three at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. (1175 & 1250 metres)

CASPIAN TERN *Hydroprogne caspia* 红嘴巨鸥

(1/16 1 1) (370 metres)

1 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* 普通燕鸥

(3/16 8 13) (370 and 1090 metres)

8, three adults & five first-years, at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)

4, two adults and two juveniles, at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)

1 adult on Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 17/10/2012. (1090 metres)

WHISKERED TERN *Chlidonias hybrida* 须浮鸥

(1/16 1 1) (1090 metres)

1 juvenile in the north-western corner of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (Photographed)(1090 metres)

WHITE-WINGED TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus* 白翅浮鸥

(1/16 1 1) (1320 metres)

1 juvenile at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. (1320 metres)

PALLAS'S SANDGROUSE *Syrhaptes paradoxus* 毛腿沙鸡

(1/16 85 85) (1130 metres)

85 near Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti on the 16/10/2012. (1130 metres)



STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas* 欧鸽

(2/16 11 12) (370 metres)

1 at Dachuangou reservoir, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)

11 flew purposefully south at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)

ORIENTAL TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia orientalis* 山斑鸠

(3/16 2 4) (370-525 metres)

2 near kilometre 22 on route S102 on route between Urumqi & Qingdahu, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (525 metres)
1 at Dachuangou reservoir, Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. (380 metres)
1 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)

EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto* 灰斑鸠

(15/16 177 530) (370-1430 metres)

3 singles in the Wujiaqu-Miquan area on the 4/10/2012. These involved one near Wolonggang reservoir, Miquan; another near Qingdahu and the final bird close to Bayi reservoir (the latter two sites both in Wujiaqu). (500 metres)
55 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. Just one of these was near Moguhu while the other 54, in flocks of 20 & 34, were at two separate sites near neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)
177 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 107 of these were close to Moguhu while the other 70 were near Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)
143 at & around the Anjihai reservoirs, Shawan on the 7/10/2012 with 133 near reservoir No. 1 & another 10 at Res. No. 2. (420-435 metres)
14 near Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
4 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
40 between Kashi, Shufu town & at Aoyitake, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (1360-1430 [40 birds] metres)
2 singles were heard in Shule on the 11/10/2012. The first was on route to the Tazihong reservoir and the other at Dong Fang Hong reservoir. (1265 metres)
1 near Xike'er xiang, Jiashi on the 12/10/2012. (1175 metres)
36 in the Shule, Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. There was just one near the Yapuquan reservoir, Shule, 34 close to Yingjisha town & one more on Dong Fang He east reservoir, Shache. (1220-1325 metres)
20 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with two at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, 12 close to the roadside fishponds also near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir & six at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
20 near Ailixihu lower reservoir, Shache on the 16/10/2012. (1180 metres)
9 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012 with seven near Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti & two near Honghai reservoir, Baqu. (1120-1130 metres)
1 near Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 17/10/2012. (1090 metres)
2 near Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
3 on route to Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 19/10/2012. (ca.1220 metres)

LAUGHING DOVE *Spilopelia senegalensis* 棕斑鸠

(1/16 1 1) (1270 metres)

1 near Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (GOU Jun)(1270 metres)

EUROPEAN ROLLER *Coracias garrulus* NT 蓝胸佛法僧

(1/16 1 1) (370 metres)

1 juvenile near Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)

{In addition Mr Ding had seen another aseasonally late birds near Shache the day before we arrived – the 12 October 2012}.

COMMON KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis* 普通翠鸟

(4/16 2 5) (370-1270 metres)

1 near the Shang Yuchang Protection Station, Qingdahu, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
1 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
1 was heard at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
2 singles in Shache on the 15/10/2012 with one at the Ailixihu upper reservoir & the other at Sukuqiake reservoir. (1180 metres)

EURASIAN HOOPOE *Upupa epops* 戴胜

(1/16 1 1) (370 metres)

1 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)

RED-TAILED SHRIKE *Lanius phoenicuroides* 棕尾伯劳

(2/16 1 2) (380 and 500 metres)

1 adult male near the Shang Yuchang Protection Station, Qingdahu, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
1 first-winter at Dachuangou reservoir, Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. (380 metres)

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor* 灰伯劳

(2/16 3 4) (1120 metres)

1 at the northern end Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (Photographed)(1120 metres)
3 at Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. I only saw one bird while GOU Jun saw the other two. (1120 metres)

EURASIAN MAGPIE *Pica pica bactriana* 喜鹊

(3/16 15 20) (1265-2540 metres)

15 between Kashi, Shufu town & at Aoyitake, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. The first birds were seen right on the edge of Kashi town. (1350 [2 birds], 1360, 2220, 2455, 2540 metres)

2 singles in the Kashi-Shule area on the 11/10/2012 with one near Tazihong reservoir, Shule & the other at Yalang reservoir, Kashi. (1265 metres)
4 in the Shule & Yingjisha areas on the 13/10/2012 with one at Yapuquan reservoir, Shule & three near Yingjisha town. (1270-1300 metres)

RED-BILLED CHOUGH *Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax* 红嘴山鸦

(1/16 15 15) (2460-ca.3000 metres)

15 between Aoyitake town and the Kizilsu Krygyz Glacier Park, Aoyitake, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (2460-ca.3000 metres)

WESTERN JACKDAW *Coloeus monedula* 寒鸦

(2/16 15 16) (530 and 1265 metres)

15, with 20 Carrion Crows, on wires near the Shihezi exit off expressway S30 on the 5/10/2012. (530 metres)

1 in the large corvid flock at Yalang reservoir, Kashi on the 11/10/2012. (1265 metres)

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus* 秃鼻乌鸦

(3/16 681 870) (1180-1265 metres)

681 in the Kashi-Shule area on the 11/10/2012. These involved 30 between Kashi, Shule & Tazihong reservoir in the early morning & another one at Tazihong reservoir itself. The main event was 650 at Yalang reservoir, Kashi in the early evening. (1265 metres)

185 over the roadside fishponds near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)

4 in Shache on the 15/10/2012 with two near Ailixihu upper reservoir & two more besides Sukuqiake reservoir. (1180 metres)

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone* 小嘴乌鸦

(12/16 142 410) (370-2380 metres)

20, with 15 Eurasian Jackdaws, on wires near the Shihezi exit off expressway S30 on the 5/10/2012. (530 metres)

2 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)

30 between Kashi, Shufu town & at Aoyitake, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. The first birds were seen right on the edge of Kashi town while quite a few more were seen in Aoyitake town. (1330 [10 birds], 1560, 1740 [8 birds], 2055 [2 birds], 2380 metres)

142 in the Kashi-Shule area on the 11/10/2012. These involved 12 between Kashi, Shule & Tazihong reservoir in the early morning & another 90 at Tazihong reservoir itself. There were about 40 in the mixed corvid flock at Yalang reservoir, Kashi in the early evening. (1265 metres)

45 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved five at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & 40 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)

27 in the Shule, Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. These involved four near Yapuquan reservoir, Shule; 11 near Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha; six close to Akeer reservoir, Yingjisha & six more near Dong Fang He west reservoir, Shache. (1220-1325 metres)

42 in Shache on the 14/10/2012. These involved 10 at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, five close to the roadside fishponds also near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, five more near Dunbage reservoir, two at Yigai'erqi reservoir & 20 at the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)

42 in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012. These involved 20 in Shahe with five at both the upper and lower Ailixihu reservoirs and 10 at Sukuqiake reservoir. Elsewhere there were 22 in Maigaiti with two besides the Ye'ercheng river bridge & 20 at Hankule reservoir. (1180 metres)

11 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012 with five close to Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti & six near Honghai reservoir, Baqu. (1120-1130 metres)

12 in Baqu on the 17/10/2012 with eight around Honghai reservoir & four near Weixin reservoir. (1120 metres)

5 near Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)

42 in the Jiashi-Atushi area on the 19/10/2012 with 30 near Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi & 12 on route to Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. (1175 & ca.1200 metres)

HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix*

(7/16 8 21) (1120-1320 metres)

3 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. GOU Jun thought this was an early autumn date for them to be already this far south & he thought that the first record the autumn for relatively well-watched Nan Shan, Urumqi was only yesterday! (1270 metres)

4 early birds in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012 - there were three at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & a single bird at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)

2 at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. (1320 metres)

1 near the roadside fishponds near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)

2 singles near Baqu on the 16/10/2012 - the first was about 10 minutes to the south of town, the second between town and Honghai reservoir. (1120 metres)

1 near Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)

8 in the Jiashi-Atushi area on the 19/10/2012 with seven near Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi & one on route to Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. (1175 & ca.1200 metres)



Hooded Crow

NORTHERN RAVEN *Corvus corax* 渡鸦

(1/16 3 3) (1175 and 1250 metres)

3 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012 - there was one at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi that only GOU Jun saw & two more at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)

CORVID SP.

(1/16 450 450) (1265 metres)

450 very distant birds at the Yapuquan wetland, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1265 metres)

RUFOUS-NAPED TIT *Periparus rufonuchalis* 棕枕山雀

(1/16 1 1) (2760 metres)

5, two pairs & a single, at Aoyitake Forest Park, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (2760 metres)

GREAT TIT *Parus major* 大山雀

(2/16 4 6) (370 metres)

4, two pairs, at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)

2 singles in the shelter belt at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)

AZURE TIT *Cyanistes cyanus* 灰蓝山雀

(13/16 24 102) (370-1740 metres)

14 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. There were 12 near the Shang Yuchang Baohuqu and two more in Lotus Park. (500 metres)

6 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. Four of these were near Moguhu with the other two being close to neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)

2 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012 - singles were heard near Moguhu in the early morning & close to Dachuangou reservoir midday. (370-380 metres)

1 was heard near Anjihai reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (420 metres)

16, eight pairs, at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)

7 near Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)

1 was heard at a road checkpoint between Saierya Big Bridge & the turning off route G314 to Aoyitake, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (1740 metres)

7 in the Kashi-Shule area on the 11/10/2012. These involved six in Shule with four, a single & later a flock of three, at Tazihong reservoir in the morning & two at the Yapuquan wetland in the early afternoon. Just one bird was seen in Kashi - a single at Yalang reservoir. (1265 metres)

24 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 22 (in flocks of 4, 7 & 11 birds) at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & two that were only heard at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)

7 in the Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012 with five close to the dam of Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha & two more at Dong Fang Hu reservoir east, Shache. (1220 & 1320 metres)

1 was heard at Dunbage reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1220 metres)

6 in Shache on the 15/10/2012 with two at Ailixihu upper reservoir, two more at Ailixihu lower reservoir and two more at Sukuqiake reservoir. (1180 metres)
10 in Baqu on the 17/10/2012 with two near Honghai reservoir & eight others around Weixin reservoir. (1120 metres)

WHITE-CROWNED PENDULINE TIT *Remiz coronatus* 白冠攀雀

(6/16 4 12) (370-1220 metres)

4 near the Shang Yuchang Protection Station, Qingedahu, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
1 was heard at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
1 was heard at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
1 was heard at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1220 metres)
2 singles in Shache on the 15/10/2012 with one heard over the Ailixihu upper reservoir & the other heard at Sukuqiake reservoir. (1180 metres)
3 separate birds were heard at Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)

BEARDED REEDLING *Panurus biarmicus* 文须雀

(7/16 68 121) (370-1250 metres)

68 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. There were 48 (two singles, a flock of 17 and another of 29) near the Shang Yuchang Baohuqu and a single flock of 20 more close to the reservoir itself. (500 metres)
3 at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. They were in the same field of sunflowers (!) as the large flock of Eurasian Tree Sparrows. (370 metres)
19 near Anjihai reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (420 metres)
15 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
4 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 12/10/2012. They were in the reed beds of the fishponds at the south-eastern corner of the reservoir. (1250 metres)
8 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with five at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, one close to the roadside fishponds also near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir & two at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
4 at Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)

GREATER SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella brachydactyla* 大短趾百灵

(3/16 8 15) (1090-1320 metres)

8 in the Shule & Yingjisha areas on the 13/10/2012 with six besides the Yapuquan reservoir, Shule & two more near Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha. (1270-1320 metres)
2 at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1220 metres). [In addition another bird, possibly this species, was heard poorly over the roadside fishponds also near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir].
5 flew west over the Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)

[In addition 10 birds, possibly this species, flew high to the south at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)]

[In addition 4 birds, possibly this species, were heard at Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)]

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

(10/16 24 83) (370-1270 metres)

5 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. These involved a single bird that was only heard and a separate adult with three attendant juveniles. (500 metres)
16 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. 15 of these (three singles and a flock of 12) flew south at Moguhu while another was heard over neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)
4 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012 - with two at both Moguhu & Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)
24 in Shawan on the 7/10/2012 with two near Xigebi, a flock of 20 over Anjihai reservoir No. 1 & a pair at Anjihai res. No. 2 (420-650 metres)
6 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
6 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
8 at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
11 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 10 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & one that was only heard at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
2 at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. (1320 metres)
2 flew west over the Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
1 was heard over Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)

[In addition 5 birds, possibly this species, were heard at Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti on the 16/10/2012. (1130 metres)]

[In addition 2 birds, possibly this species were heard at Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)]

CRESTED LARK *Galerida cristata* 凤头百灵

(14/16 27 158) (370-1335 metres)

3 in Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. These involved one near the Shang Yuchang Baohuqu, Qingedahu & two at Bayi reservoir. (500 metres)
20 in one flock at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
1 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
1 was heard near Anjihai reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (420 metres)
16, 14 of which flew south as singles, pairs and parties of three, at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
6 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
27 in Shule on the 11/10/2012. There were 25 around Tazihong reservoir and another two at Dong Fang Hong reservoir. (1265 metres)
12 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012 with six at both Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
12 in the Shule, Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. These involved six near Yapuquan reservoir, Shule; three near Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha; one close to Sakayi reservoir, Yingjisha & two more near Dong Fang He west reservoir, Shache. (1220-1335 metres)
10 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with two at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, two more close to the roadside fishponds also near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir & six at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
4 near Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1120 metres)

12 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with 103 in Baqu (four around Honghai & six at Weixin reservoirs respectively). Elsewhere there were two near Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke. (1090-1120 metres)
24 around Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
10 at various points around Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)

EURASIAN SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis* 云雀

(5/16 50 75) (370-1270 metres)

7 singles flew south at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
7 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012 with five at Moguhu & the other two at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)
50 at kilometre post 10 on route X814 near Xigebei, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (650 metres)
10 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
1 flew over Yapuquan reservoir, Shule on the 13/10/2012. (1270 metres)

HORNED LARK *Eremophila alpestris* 角百灵

(6/16 9 19) (370-1320 metres)

1 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
1 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 12/10/2012. (1175 metres)
1 flew over Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. (1320 metres)
3 at Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 17/10/2012. (1090 metres)
9 near Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. One flew west over the northern boundary road in the early morning while another eight close to the cement works on the reservoir's eastern flank. (1090 metres)
4 near Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 19/10/2012. (1250 metres)

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* 崖沙燕

(1/16 3 3) (1200-1220 metres)

3 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with one over the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir & two others over the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)

SAND or PALE MARTIN *Riparia riparia* or *R. diluta*

(1/16 3 3) (1210 metres)

3 over the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)

BARN SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* 家燕

(6/16 277 325) (370-1270 metres)

32 in the Wolonggang reservoir/Bayi reservoir area on the 4/10/2012 with seven over Wolonggang reservoir, Miqian & 25 over Bayi reservoir, Wujiaqu. (500 metres)
3 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
1 low over Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
277 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with 80 over the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, two close to the roadside fishponds also near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir & 195 over the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
11 in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012 with six over Sukuqiake reservoir, Shache & five over Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)
1 over Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)

EURASIAN CRAG MARTIN *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* 岩燕

(1/16 185 185) (1175 metres)

185 in a single flock near Xike'er xiang, Jiashi in the early evening (19h40 and 45 minutes before sunset) of the 12/10/2012. (1175 metres)

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti* 宽尾树莺

(3/16 4 6) (370, 1120 and 1180 metres)

1 calling bird was heard at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
1 at Sukuqiake reservoir, Shache on the 15/10/2012. I saw two while GOU Jun saw three - and one of my birds would be different to all of his. (1180 metres)
1 was heard at Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)

WHITE-BROWED TIT-WARBLER *Leptopoeile sophiae* 花彩雀莺

(1/16 6 6) (2670-2760 metres)

6, three pairs, at Aoyitake Forest Park, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (2670-2760 metres)

COMMON CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita* 叽咋柳莺

(14/16 24 87) (370-1270 and 2760 metres)

18 near the Shang Yuchang Protection Station, Qingedahu, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. At least four separate birds were singing! (500 metres)

1 was heard at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
1 was heard near Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
10 near Anjihai reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (420 metres)
24 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
15 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
2 at Aoyitake Forest Park, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (2760 metres)
2 at the Yapuquan wetland, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1265 metres)
2 were heard at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 12/10/2012. (1250 metres)
2 were heard at Yapuquan reservoir, Shule on the 13/10/2012. (1270 metres)
3 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with two being heard at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir & another heard at the Yigai'erqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)
2 were heard at Sukujiake reservoir, Shache on the 15/10/2012. (1180 metres)
2 singles were heard near Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)
3 were heard at Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)

[MOUNTAIN CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus sindianus sindianus* 东方叽咋柳

(1/16 1 1) (2760 metres)

1 bird probably this species at Aoyitake Forest Park, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (2760 metres)]

SMOKY WARBLER *Phylloscopus fuligiventer fuligiventer* 烟柳莺

(1/16 1 1) (1180 metres)

1 near Ailixihu lower reservoir, Shache on the 16/10/2012. The first record for Xinjiang. (1180 metres)

HUME'S LEAF WARBLER *Phylloscopus humei humei* 淡眉柳莺

(6/16 5 19) (370-270, 1800 and 2760 metres)

2 were heard (& one of them even gave several bouts of song!) near the Shang Yuchang Protection Station, Qingedahu, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)

2 singles near Shawan on the 7/10/2012 - one close to Xigebi & the other at Anjihai res. No. 2. (420 & 650 metres)

5 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)

5 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)

6 between an area of scrub north of Aoyitake town and Aoyitake Forest Park/the Kizilsu Krygyz Glacier Park, Aoyitake, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (1800 [2 birds] & 2760 [4 birds] metres)

2 were heard at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca* 白喉林莺

(3/16 1 3) (370-420 metres)

1 was heard near Anjihai reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (420 metres)

1 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)

1 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)

DESERT WHITETHROAT *Sylvia minula* 沙白喉林莺

(6/16 3 10) (1120-1270 metres)

2 separate calling birds were heard at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)

1 was heard at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 12/10/2012. (1175 metres)

2 calling birds were heard at Yapuquan reservoir, Shule on the 13/10/2012. (1270 metres)

1 was heard at Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti on the 15/10/2012. (1180 metres)

1 was heard near Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1120 metres)

3 at Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)

CHINESE HILL WARBLER *Rhopophilus pekinensis albosuperciliaris* 山鹛

(4/16 8 20) (1120-1180 metres)

7 in the Shache-Maigaiti area on the 15/10/2012 with five around the Ailixihu lower reservoir, Shache and two other heard at Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)

3 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012 with one near Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti & a pair close to Honghai reservoir, Baqu. (1120-1130 metres)

8, a single, a party of three & another of four, at Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)

2 were heard in scrub near Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus* 戴菊

(3/16 3 5) (370-2760 metres)

3 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)

1 at Aoyitake Forest Park, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (2760 metres)

1 near Ailixihu lower reservoir, Shache on the 16/10/2012. (1180 metres)

EURASIAN WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes tianschanicus* 鹪鹩

(5/16 4 9) (1090-1265 and 2760 metres)

2 at Aoyitake Forest Park, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (GOU Jun)(2760 metres)

1 calling bird was heard at the Yapuquan wetland, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1265 metres)

4 in Shache on the 15/10/2012 with three besides Ailixihu lower reservoir & one more besides Sukuqiake reservoir. (1180 metres)

1 was heard at Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 17/10/2012. (1090 metres)

1 was heard near Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)

ROSY STARLING *Pastor roseus* 粉红椋鸟

(2/16 2 3) (1180 and 1210 metres)

2 in one of the flocks of Common Starlings at the Yigaiqi reservoir reed bed & wetland, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1210 metres)

1 in a large flock of Common Starlings Sukuqiake reservoir, Shache on the 15/10/2012. (1180 metres)

COMMON STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris* 紫翅椋鸟

(14/16 5340 21157) (370-1270 metres)

55 in Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. These involved 45 around Qingedahu (with 25 near the Shang Yuchang Baohuqu & another 20 close to the lake itself) & 10 close to Bayi reservoir. (500 metres)

1500 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. About 100 were seen close to the Shihezi exit off expressway S30, another 1270 (a flock of 1000 that were feeding near the cattle plus flocks of 25, 30, 60, 65 & 90 that flew south) were near Moguhu while the remaining 110 were close to neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)

600 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 350 of these were at Moguhu, another 120 at Dachuangou reservoir & 130 between there and Shihezi town in the early evening. (370-380 metres)

20 between Shihezi & Shawan on the 7/10/2012.

1335 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. The flock of about 1000 birds was again in the field with the cattle and goats while 355 others flew south. The latter were in flocks of 20, 20, 25, 30, 45, 50, 65 & 100 birds. (370 metres)

970 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. I saw just three flocks today and these contained 100, 120 & 650 birds. (370 metres)

1180 at various sites in Shule on the 11/10/2012. There were 30 between Shule town and Tazihong reservoir; 1110 at Tazihong reservoir; 20 flew over the Yapuquan wetland & 20 more flew over Dong Fang Hong reservoir. (1265 metres)

5340 in the Shule & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012 with 65 near Yapuquan reservoir, Shule & 5275 counted flying to roost in the 30 minute period between 19h35-20h05 (with sunset being at 20h16) at Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache. (1200-1270 metres)

5150 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with just three over the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, 650 at Mijidong reservoir & 4500 at the Yigaiqi reservoir reed bed & wetland in the early evening. (1200-1220 metres)

4595 in the Shache-Maigaiti areas on the 15/10/2012. The vast majority of these (4550 birds) were in Shache with 300 were around Ailixihu upper reservoir, 150 more around Ailixihu lower reservoir and 4100 at Sukuqiake reservoir. Elsewhere there were 45 close to the Ye'ercheng river, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)

25 near Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1120 metres)

150 in Baqu on the 17/10/2012 with 90 near Honghai reservoir & 60 around Weixin reservoir. (1120 metres)

215, in flocks of five, 20, 30, 40, 40 & 80 birds, flew west over the northern end of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke in the early morning of the

18/10/2012. (1090 metres)

2 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)

COMMON BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula* 乌鸫

(7/16 10 27) (370-650 and 2760 metres)

1 first-winter male near the Shang Yuchang Protection Station, Qingedahu, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)

2 near Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)

4 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)

2 at kilometre post 10 on route X814 near Xigebei, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (650 metres)

10 at & around Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)

6 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)

2 at Aoyitake Forest Park, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (2760 metres)

BLACK-THROATED THRUSH *Turdus atrogularis* 黑颈鸫

(14/16 153 319) (370-1270 and 2760 metres)

1 was heard near the Shang Yuchang Protection Station, Qingedahu, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)

3 near Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)

3 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. The first bird was heard flying south at 07h48. (370 metres)

2 near Anjihai reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (420 metres)

153 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. 130 of these flew south in the early morning while 23 were still in the neighbouring shelter belt midday. (370 metres)

65 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)

15 at Aoyitake Forest Park, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (2760 metres)

9 in Shule on the 11/10/2012. These involved eight that flew south over Tazihong reservoir & another at the Yapuquan wetland. (1265 metres)

1 at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 12/10/2012. (1250 metres)

46 at Yapuquan reservoir, Shule on the 13/10/2012. (1270 metres)

2 close to the roadside fishponds also near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1200 metres)

15 at Ailixihu upper reservoir, Shache on the 16/10/2012. (1180 metres)

3 near Honghai reservoir, Baqu on the 16/10/2012. (1120 metres)

1 was heard over the northern border road of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)

BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica* 蓝喉歌鸫

(2/16 2 3) (500 and 1200 metres)

2 near the Shang Yuchang Protection Station, Qingedahu, Wujiagu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
1 close to the roadside fishponds also near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1200 metres)

EVERSMANN'S REDSTART *Phoenicurus erythronotus* 红背红尾鹟

(4/16 3 9) (370-420 and 2760 metres)

1 near Anjihai reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (420 metres)
3 singles at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
3 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. At least one of these, a presumed adult male, was different to those seen yesterday. (370 metres)
2 at Aoyitake Forest Park, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (2760 metres)

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros* 赭红尾鹟

(1/16 1 1) (2210 metres)

1 between Aoyitake town and Aoyitake Forest Park/the Kizilsu Krygyz Glacier Park, Aoyitake, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (2210 metres)

NORTHERN WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe* 穗即鸟

(2/16 2 3) (370 metres)

2 at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
1 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)

PIED WHEATEAR *Oenanthe pleschanka* 白顶即鸟

(2/16 1 2) (1130-1265 metres)

1 first-winter male at Dong Fang Hong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1265 metres)
1 first-winter female at Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti on the 16/10/2012. (1130 metres)

DESERT WHEATEAR *Oenanthe deserti* 漠即鸟

(3/16 3 6) (370 and ca.1200 metres)

2 males, at least one of which was first-winter, at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
1 first-winter male at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
3 at Guleluk xiang on route to Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 19/10/2012. (ca.1200 metres)

WHEATEAR SP. *Oenanthe sp.*

(1/16 1 1) (1175 metres)

1 bird, probably a Desert Wheatear, was seen briefly at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)

SAXAUL SPARROW *Passer ammodendri* 黑顶麻雀

(6/16 85 203) (1090-1270 metres)

3 singles flew west at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
11 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012 - a flock of ten flew high to the south over Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi while a single bird did the same at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)
20 at Yapuquan reservoir, Shule on the 13/10/2012. (1270 metres)
22 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with 20 flying north at Weixin reservoir, Baqu in the morning and two flying west at Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke in the early evening. (1090 & 1120 metres)
85, in flocks of five, 10, 20, 25 & 25 birds flew west over the northern boundary road of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. All were seen after 10h20 - well over an hour after sunrise. (1090 metres)
62, in flocks of 3, 5, 5, 6, 6, 7 & 30 birds flew west near Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* 麻雀

(16/16 1600 3450) (370-2760 metres)

250 in the Wujiagu-Miquan area on the 4/10/2012. There were about 20 near Wolonggang reservoir, Miquan while the other 230 were in Wujiagu with 100 at each of the two sites we visited near Qingedahu & 30 near Bayi reservoir. (500 metres)
1600 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. A flock of at least 1300 birds were seen in a single field of over-ripe sunflowers besides Shihezi reservoir, another 50 were in a similar field near neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir & probably almost 300 others were encountered elsewhere during the day. (370 metres)
130 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 100 of these were at Moguhu & the other 300 at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)
50 in & around Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (420-650 metres)
160 around Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. Most of these were at Moguhu where several small flocks were seen purposefully flying south in the early morning. (360-400 metres)
100 at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
50 between Kashi, Shufu town & Aoyitake Forest Park, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (1390-2760 metres)
200 in the Kashi-Shule area on the 11/10/2012. These involved 20 between Kashi, Shule & Tazihong reservoir in the early morning & another 50 at Tazihong

reservoir itself. There were about 20 near the Yapuquan wetland, Shule, another 50 at the Dong Fang Hong reservoir, Shule and ten near Shule town. Elsewhere there were also about 40 at Yalang reservoir, Kashi. (1265 metres)

220 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012. These involved 200, including two flocks of 90 birds each that flew purposefully high to the west, at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & 20 at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)

20 at Yapuquan reservoir, Shule on the 13/10/2012. (1270 metres)

50 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with 20 at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir & 30 at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)

140 in the Shache-Maigaiti area on the 15/10/2012. 120 of these were in Shache with 70 between Shache town & the Ailixihu reservoirs & 50 more at Sukuqiake reservoir. Elsewhere there were 20 around Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)

50 in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012 with 10 near Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti & 40 at various places between Baqu town & Honghai reservoir. (1120-1130 metres)

360 in Baqu on the 17/10/2012 with 25 around Honghai reservoir & 335 at Weixin reservoir. There was an obvious movement of sparrows at Weixin this morning with 13 parties of between five & 80 Eurasian Tree Sparrows flying purposefully north in the early morning. They were presumably leaving a nearby roost although the movement last until at least 10h30 - a full 1.5 hours after sunrise! (1120 metres)

20 near Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)

50 in the Jiashi-Atushi area on the 19/10/2012 with 20 near Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi & 40 more between there & Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi. (1175 & ca.1200 metres)

ROCK SPARROW *Petronia petronia* 石雀

(1/16 2 2) (650 metres)

2 near kilometre post 10 on route X814 near Xigebei, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (650 metres)

BLACK-THROATED ACCENTOR *Prunella atrogularis* 黑喉岩鹀

(3/16 3 5) (370 metres)

1 was heard as it flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi about 30 minutes before sunrise on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)

1 was heard in the shelter belt at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)

3 singles in the shelter belt at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)

WESTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava* 西黄鹡鸰

(5/16 24 33) (370-1220 metres)

24 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)

1 was heard at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)

1 was heard at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)

5, including 2 *thunbergi*, at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)

2 singles in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with the first being heard over the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir and the second heard over the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba* 白鹡鸰

(14/16 85 204) (370-1320 metres)

4 in Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. These involved three near the Shang Yuchang Baohuqu, Qingedahu & one at Bayi reservoir. (500 metres)

5, including three 'Masked Wagtails' *M. a. personata*, flew south at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)

22 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 20 of these were at Moguhu & the other two at Dachuangou reservoir. 18 birds were seen well enough to racially assign and 17 were *personata* the only exception being a single *alba* at Moguhu in the late afternoon. (370-380 metres)

4 at the Anjihai reservoirs, Shawan on the 7/10/2012 with two over Anjihai reservoir No. 1 & two *alba* at Res. No. 2. (420-435 metres)

18, including 15 Masked Wagtail *M. a. personata* & just one *nominata* *alba* at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)

1 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)

27 in Shule on the 11/10/2012. There were 19, four *personata* & six *alba*, around Tazihong reservoir in the morning and another eight, all *personata* besides the river between Shule & Kashi towns in the mid-afternoon. (1265 metres)

2 in the Atushi-Jiashi area on the 12/10/2012 with one at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi & the other, a Masked Wagtail *M. a. personata*, at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi. (1175 & 1250 metres)

26 in the Shule, Yingjisha & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012. These involved seven (two *personata* & three *alba*) at Yapuquan reservoir, Shule; one *personata* at Sakayi reservoir, Yingjisha & 18 (16 *personata*) at Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache. (1200-1320 metres)

85 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with 12, including four *personata*, at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir & 73, including 11 *personata*, at the Yigaierqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. (1200-1220 metres)

3 in the Shache-Maigaiti area on the 15/10/2012 with one *personata* at Ailixihu lower reservoir, Shache & two birds that were not racially assigned at Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)

1 at Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti on the 16/10/2012. (1130 metres)

3 *personata* at Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 17/10/2012. (1090 metres)

3 *personata* near the northern boundary road of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus richardi* 理氏鹀

(1/16 2 2) (500 metres)

2 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)

TAWNY PIPIT *Anthus campestris* 平原鹀

(2/16 1 2) (650 and 1200 metres)

1 at kilometre post 10 on route X814 near Xigebei, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. Probably a late autumn date. (650 metres)

1 calling bird flew high over the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1200 metres)

TREE or OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT *Anthus trivialis* or *A. hodgsoni*

(1/16 1 1) (650 metres)

1 at kilometre post 10 on route X814 near Xigebei, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (650 metres)

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus* 红喉鸚

(1/16 3 3) (1210 metres)

3 separate birds flew north (!) over the Yigaiqi reservoir reed bed & wetland, Shache on the 14/10/2012. One of them was photographed. (1210 metres)



Red-throated Pipit at Yigaiqi reservoir, Shache.

BUFF-BELLIED PIPIT *Anthus rubescens japonicus* 黄腹鸚

(2/16 2 3) (370 metres)

1 was heard at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)

2 were seen well on the reservoir edge at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta* 水鸚

(14/16 146 522) (370-1270 metres)

6 in Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. These involved five near Qingedahu (with three close to the Shang Yuchang Baohuqu & another two near the lake edge) & one at Bayi reservoir. (500 metres)

15 near Shihezi on the 5/10/2012. Nine of these flew south over Moguhu with another six around neighbouring Dachuangou reservoir. (370 metres)

59 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. 25 of these were at Moguhu & the other 34 at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)

9 near Shawan on the 7/10/2012 - three at Xigebei, one at Anjihai res. No. 1 & five near Anjihai res. No. 2. (420-650 metres)

146 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. 119 of these flew south in the early morning. (370 metres)

101 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)

18 flew west at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)

5 flew west at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 12/10/2012. (1250 metres)

44 in the Shule & Shache areas on the 13/10/2012 with 41 over Yapuquan reservoir, Shule & three over Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache. (1200-1270 metres)

89 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with 15 at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, three close to the roadside fishponds also near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir & 71 at the Yigaiqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. Many of the latter were apparently heading to an evening roost near there. (1200-1220 metres)

7 in the Shache-Maigaiti area on the 15/10/2012 with five around the Ailixihu upper & lower reservoirs, Shache and two at Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)

2 singles in the Maigaiti-Baqu area on the 16/10/2012 with one over Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti & the other over Honghai reservoir, Baqu. (1120-1130 metres)

3 flew north at Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)

18 flew west over the northern end of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke during the morning of the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)

COMMON CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs* 苍头燕雀

(8/16 15 26) (370-1270 and 2760 metres)

3 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)

1 flew south at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)

15 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)

1 female at Aoyitake Forest Park, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (2760 metres)
1 was heard at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
1 flew south at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 12/10/2012. (1250 metres)
2 flew south at Yapuquan reservoir, Shule on the 13/10/2012. (1270 metres)
2 at Ailixihu upper reservoir, Shache on the 16/10/2012. (1180 metres)

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla* 燕雀

(5/16 34 51) (370-650 metres)

3 separate birds were heard near the Shang Yuchang Protection Station, Qingedahu, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)
1 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi before dawn (at 07h55) on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)
2 singles flew south at kilometre post 10 on route X814 near Xigebei, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (650 metres)
11 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
34 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)

EUROPEAN GREENFINCH *Chloris chloris* 欧金翅雀

(4/16 23 48) (370-650 metres)

4 near the Shang Yuchang Protection Station, Qingedahu, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres). Ten years ago this species was virtually confined to Yili but it continues to rapidly expand its range and in 2011 it was reported for the first time in Mulei (pers. obs) while in 2012 it was reported for the first time from Aksu, Wusu & Aqi districts for the first time!
2 at kilometre post 10 on route X814 near Xigebei, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (650 metres)
19 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. Most were in the shelter belt but at least five flew purposefully south. (370 metres)
23 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)

[In addition 1 bird, possibly this species, was heard poorly over the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1200 metres)]

EURASIAN SISKIN *Carduelis spinus* 黄雀

(2/16 19 20) (370-650 metres)

9 near Shawan on the 7/10/2012 with a flock of seven at Xigebei & a flock of 12 near Anjihai res. No. 2. (420 & 650 metres)
1 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. All encounters were with flock of between one & nine birds. (370 metres)

EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis* 红额金翅雀

(2/16 2 4) (370-650 metres)

2 at kilometre post 10 on route X814 near Xigebei, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (650 metres)
2 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)

COMMON LINNET *Carduelis cannabina* 赤胸朱顶雀

(4/16 3 7) (370-1270 metres)

2 at kilometre post 10 on route X814 near Xigebei, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (650 metres)
3 singles flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
1 flew west at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
1 flew west at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 12/10/2012. (1250 metres)

MONGOLIAN FINCH *Eremopsaltria mongolica* 蒙古沙雀

(1/16 100 100) (1090 metres)

100 in a single flock besides Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. They were all Km 14 (south of cement works) on S230 that runs down the eastern side of the reservoir. (1090 metres)

DESERT FINCH *Rhodospiza obsoleta* 巨嘴沙雀

(11/16 15 29) (370-1320 metres)

1 flew south at Moguhu on the 5/10/2012. (370 metres)
2 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012 - with singles flying south near Moguhu before dawn and another heard over Dachuangou reservoir in the early afternoon. (370-380 metres)
3 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)
1 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)
1 flew west at Tazihong reservoir, Shule on the 11/10/2012. (1270 metres)
15 in a single flock flew over at Yingjisha reservoir, Yingjisha on the 13/10/2012. (1320 metres)
1 was heard over the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache on the 14/10/2012. (1200 metres)
2 singles in Shache on the 15/10/2012 with one over the Ailixihu lower reservoir & the other over Sukuqiake reservoir. (1180 metres)
1 flew north at Weixin reservoir, Baqu on the 17/10/2012. (1120 metres)
2 singles flew west over the northern end of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)
1 flew west at Xike'er reservoir, Jiashi on the 19/10/2012. (1175 metres)

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus* 普通朱雀

(1/16 3 3) (370 metres)

1 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi before dawn (at 07h55) on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)

RED-MANTLED ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus rhodochlamys* 红腰朱雀

(1/16 3 3) (2760 metres)

3 separate female large rosefinches at Aoyitake Forest Park, Shufu on the 10/10/2012 were probably this species. None of the three were seen particularly well. (2760 metres)

WHITE-WINGED GROSBEAK *Mycerobas carnipes* 白斑翅拟蜡嘴

(1/16 1 1) (2780 metres)

1 was heard at Aoyitake Forest Park, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (2780 metres)

PINE BUNTING *Emberiza leucocephalos* 白头鹀

(3/16 24 47) (370 and 1090 metres)

24 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. They were all singles, pairs or flocks of only up to three birds. (370 metres)

21 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. I had ten encounters with flocks of between one & four birds. (370 metres)

2 singles flew high to the west over the northern end of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)

[In addition 12 birds, possibly this species, were heard at Yapuquan reservoir, Shule on the 13/10/2012. (1270 metres)]

[YELLOWHAMMER or PINE BUNTING *E. citrinella* or *E. leucocephalos*]

(2/16 3 4) (370-650 metres)

1 calling bird was heard as it flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi at 07h49 on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)

3 near Shawan on the 7/10/2012 with 2 singles flying south near Xigebi & another near Anjihai res. No. 1. (435 & 650 metres)

ROCK BUNTING *Emberiza cia* 灰眉岩鹀

(1/16 2 2) (2760 metres)

2 at Aoyitake Forest Park, Shufu on the 10/10/2012. (2760 metres)

MEADOW BUNTING *Emberiza cioides* 三道眉草鹀

(1/16 1 1) (370 metres)

1 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)

LITTLE BUNTING *Emberiza pusilla* 小鹀

(2/16 3 4) (370 and 500 metres)

3 separate birds were heard, all flying west, near the Shang Yuchang Protection Station, Qingedahu, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)

1 at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)

COMMON REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus* 芦鹀

(14/16 69 180) (370-1270 metres)

7 were heard near the Shang Yuchang Protection Station, Qingedahu, Wujiaqu on the 4/10/2012. (500 metres)

14 near Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. Three of these were at Moguhu & the other 11 at Dachuangou reservoir. (370-380 metres)

4 at Anjihai reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 7/10/2012. (420 metres)

7 singles flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 8/10/2012. (370 metres)

11 flew south at Moguhu, Shihezi on 9/10/2012. (370 metres)

14 in Shule on the 11/10/2012. These involved 11, as singles, twos and threes, that flew purposefully west at Tazihong reservoir in the early morning; another two that were heard at the Yapuquan wetland & another that was heard at Dong Fang Hong reservoir in the mid-afternoon. (1265 metres)

7 singles flew west at Tuokayi reservoir, Atushi on the 12/10/2012. (1250 metres)

2 singles on the 13/10/2012 - with one at Yapuquan reservoir, Shule & the other at Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache. (1200 & 1270 metres)

69 in Shache on the 14/10/2012 with eight at the wetland near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, three close to the roadside fishponds also near the Dong Fang Hu east reservoir & 58 at the Yigaiqirqi reservoir reed bed & wetland. Many of the latter were apparently heading to a nearby evening roost. (1200-1220 metres)

3 in the Shache-Maigaiti area on the 15/10/2012 with at Ailixihu upper reservoir, Shache & one at Hankule reservoir, Maigaiti. (1180 metres)

2 at Qianjin reservoir, Maigaiti on the 16/10/2012. (1130 metres)

14 in the Baqu-Tumushuke area on the 17/10/2012 with 10 in Baqu (1 near Honghai & nine at Weixin reservoirs respectively). Elsewhere there were four near Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke. (1090-1120 metres)

14, singles, pairs and flocks of up to four birds, flew west over the northern end of Yonganba north reservoir, Tumushuke on the 18/10/2012. (1090 metres)

LAPLAND LONGSPUR *Calcarius lapponicus* 铁爪鹀

(1/16 1 1) (370 metres)

1 calling bird was heard flying south at Moguhu, Shihezi on the 6/10/2012. (370 metres)

MAMMALS, AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

TALIMU HARE *Lepus yarkandensis*

(2/16 40 59) (1190 metres)

1 near Dong Fang Hu east reservoir, Shache on the 13/10/2012. (1190 metres)

Paul Holt Goa, India 2 November 2012