

Species list:

Severtzov's Hazel Grouse *Tetrastes sewerzowi*

4+ bird-days. Noted on two dates N of Xining – main event 3+ on 19th: 'two males seen well & heard wing-rustling + at least one more heard'!

Blood Pheasant *Ithaginis cruentus*

Three bird-days. Noted on two dates N of Xining. A remarkably tame pair ingesting grit at the edge of the road allowed close approach on 19th – click-click-click!

Blue Eared Pheasant *Crossoptilon auritum*

13 bird-days. Noted on two dates N of Xining – we were simply blown away by finding a pair within five seconds of getting out of the car at The Spot. It was SO good that we duly set about pinching each other to make sure we were not dreaming!

It was also extremely pleasing from the point of view of firming up plans for the rest of our short visit – this was the bird we'd come so far to see, and seeing it so well, so soon, would allow us to visit also Koko Nor. Later the same day we found another pair feeding at <30m in a valley bottom – outstanding photo ops, certainly, but by then we had begun to take great views of these dignified birds for granted!

Reeve's Pheasant *Syrmaticus reevesii*

25 bird-days. Noted daily over 13-16th – we had brief encounters with several birds before a male walked across the track directly in front of us... another WOW! moment, even if he didn't sport longest-ever tail feathers: at up to 180cm long the tail feathers are still prized as ornaments for traditional opera costumes.

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

14 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Swan Goose *Anser cygnoides*

26 at Wild Duck Lake on 12th.

***Earlier in spring it is not unusual to see hundreds of these sleek birds at this site.

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

Three – one *serrirostris* & two *middendorffii* – at Wild Duck Lake on 12th.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

22 in the Koko Nor area on 18th.

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*

30 at Koko Nor on 18th.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

16 at Wild Duck Lake on 12th.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Five adults & two 2nd c-y – grown-up Ugly Ducklings! - at Koko Nor on 18th.

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Two at Koko Nor on 18th.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

110+ bird-days. Great views at both Wild Duck Lake & Koko Nor.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Noted on two dates – main event six superb males & three also-not-bad-looking females allowing prolonged 'scoped viewing at they busied themselves with courtshipping at Wild Duck Lake on 12th.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

265+ bird-days. Noted at both Wild Duck Lake & Koko Nor.

Falcated Duck *Anas falcata*

300+ at Wild Duck Lake was about as many as one can hope to see there in a day – and what views! What a treat!

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*

41 bird-days. Noted at both Wild Duck Lake & Koko Nor.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

50 bird-days. Noted at both Wild Duck Lake & Koko Nor.

Chinese Spotbill *Anas zonorhyncha*

Five at Wild Duck Lake on 12th.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

48 bird-days. Noted at both Wild Duck Lake & Koko Nor.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

15 at Koko Nor on 18th.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Nine bird-days. Noted at both Wild Duck Lake & Koko Nor – nice views of three immaculate drakes on 12th!

Common Teal *Anas crecca*

c1,815 bird-days. Noted at both Wild Duck Lake & Koko Nor.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

30 at Koko Nor on 18th.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

125 bird-days. Noted at both Wild Duck Lake & Koko Nor.

Baer's Pochard *Aythya baeri*

Three – two males and a female – at Wild Duck Lake on 12th: TINGALING!
***Listed as 'Critically Endangered' – 'owing to an apparent acceleration in the rate of its decline, as measured by numbers on both the breeding and wintering grounds. It is now absent or occurs in extremely reduced numbers over the majority of its former breeding and wintering grounds and is common nowhere. It is thought that hunting and wetland destruction are the key

reasons for its decline.' – there may be no more than a couple of hundred individuals left... see <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/100600478/0>

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

21+ bird-days. Noted at both Wild Duck Lake & Koko Nor.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

120 bird-days. Noted on two dates.

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

73+ bird-days. Noted at both Wild Duck Lake & Koko Nor.

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

c20 on 12th.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

One N of Xining on 17th.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

A pair seen well at Wild Duck Lake on 12th.

***Not recorded annually in Beijing.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

11+ bird-days. Noted on two dates.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

c140 bird-days. Noted at both Wild Duck Lake & Koko Nor.

Eurasian Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Three heard at Wild Duck Lake on 12th.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Two – an adult & a 2nd c-y – at Koko Nor on 18th.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

14 bird-days. Noted at both Wild Duck Lake & Koko Nor.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

One at Koko Nor on 18th.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Four bird-days. Noted on two dates.

*****Egret sp**

17 en route on 16th.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

13 bird-days. Noted at both Wild Duck Lake & Koko Nor.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Three bird-days. Noted in Qinghai on two dates.

Saker *Falco cherrug*

One adult carrying prey at Wild Duck Lake on 12th.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Three at Wild Duck Lake on 12th.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Seven bird-days. Noted at both Wild Duck Lake & Koko Nor.

Himalayan Griffon *Gyps himalayensis*

Singles N of Xining on both 17+19th.

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

One 2nd c-y at Koko Nor on 18th.

Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus*

No fewer than nine at Wild Duck Lake on 12th – at least three were adult males!

*****Marsh Harrier sp** *Circus aeruginosus* / *C. spilonotus*

One 2nd c-y at Koko Nor on 18th.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Singletons on two days in Qinghai.

Grey-faced Buzzard *Butastur indicus*

Ten bird-days. Noted daily in Henan – two pairs present.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo japonicus*

Three migr on 12th.

***In the recommended field guide for trips in E China - Brazil (2009) – ssp *japonicus* is given full species status...

Himalayan Buzzard *Buteo burmanicus*

Singles N of Xining on both 17+19th – outstanding views of a fully adult bird soaring on 17th...

***Formerly considered a race of Common Buzzard *B. buteo* but genetically closer to Upland Buzzard *B. hemilasius* (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005) from which it is ecologically separated & easily - well, fairly easily! - distinguished...

Eastern Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca*

A 2nd c-y bird seen fairly close, heading NE, at Wild Duck Lake on 12th.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

One adult N of Xining on 19th.

Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*

One dark morph bird at Wild Duck Lake on 12th.

***A rare bird @ Beijing.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

One en route on 16th.

Common Coot *Fulica atra*

780+ bird-days. Noted at both Wild Duck Lake & Koko Nor.

Common Crane *Grus grus*

58 bird-days. Noted at both Wild Duck Lake & Koko Nor.

Black-necked Crane *Grus nigricollis*

Six (= three pairs, of which one seen in full display: bugling, soggy veg tossing & jumping clear off the ground) near Koko Nor on 18th.

***This hardy yet Vulnerable (<http://www.iucnredlist.org/apps/redlist/details/143783/0>) Tibetan Plateau endemic breeder was – although we'd all seen it before - one of the most hoped-for species!

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

29 bird-days. Noted at both Wild Duck Lake & Koko Nor.

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

33 at Wild Duck Lake on 12th.

Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus*

Seven bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Three at Koko Nor on 18th.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

35 bird-days. Noted at both Wild Duck Lake & Koko Nor.

'Spot-fronted' / Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius atrifrons* / *C. leschenaultii*

One seen briefly in flight at Koko Nor on 18th.

Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus*

76 at Wild Duck Lake on 12th, incl several birds in full plumage – what a way to start the trip!

Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

One N of Xining on 19th.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Ten at Koko Nor on 18th.

Western Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Three at Koko Nor on 18th.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

32 at Koko Nor on 18th.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

One at Koko Nor on 18th.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Four at Koko Nor on 18th.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Single 2nd c-y birds noted at both Wild Duck Lake & Koko Nor – the former was a definite ssp *heinei*.

Great Black-headed Gull *Larus ichthyaetus*

19 on the Plateau on 18th – superb views!

Brown-headed Gull *Larus brunnicephalus*

23+ on the Plateau on 18th.

Common Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

41+ bird-days. Noted at both Wild Duck Lake & Koko Nor.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

Two exceptionally early birds at Koko Nor on 18th...

Blue Hill Pigeon *Columba rupestris*

13+ bird-days. Noted in Qinghai on two dates.

Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*

31 bird-days. Noted daily in Henan.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

11 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

21 bird-days. Noted on six dates – one at >3,000m in NE Tibet on 17th was a surprise!

Large Hawk-Cuckoo *Cuculus sparveroides*

Seven bird-days. 1-3 heard daily in Henan.

Oriental Scops Owl *Otus sunia*

20 bird-days. 3-7 birds heard daily in Henan.

Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei*

Six bird-days. 1-3 birds were noted in Henan on three dates – seeing & photographing one on 15th was a bonus!

Brown Hawk-Owl *Ninox scutulata*

A singleton calling 'on our doorstep' nightly over 13-16th.

Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus jokata*

One heard on both 15+16th.

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*

Three at Wild Duck Lake on 12th.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Four at Wild Duck Lake on 12th.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Five at Wild Duck Lake on 12th.

Speckled Piculet *Picumnus innominatus*

14 bird-days. 1-6 noted daily in Henan – most were heard-onlies...

Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos canicapillus*

One on 16th.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

19 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius*

One calling strongly but, alas, not showing on 19th.

Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus*

Ten bird-days. Noted on five dates.

Swinhoe's Minivet *Pericrocotus cantonensis*

22+ bird-days. Noted daily over 14-16th.

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*

Three en route to the airport on 16th.

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

45 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

Azure-winged Magpie *Cyanopica cyanus*

22+ bird-days. Noted on four dates.

***Apparently the Iberian taxon, *C. (c.) cooki*, has been shown to be sufficiently differentiated genetically to merit elevation to full species status. In addition to the ones we saw, *kansuensis* in NE Tibet & *interposita* at Beijing, the eastern species includes a further five taxa (Dickinson 2003)...

Red-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*

36 bird-days. Up to 18 daily in Henan...

Common Magpie *Pica pica*

Common – not systematically recorded.

Hume's Groundpecker *Pseudopodoces humilis*

Ten on the Plateau on 18th – seeing this charming high-altitude specialist is invariably a highlight of a visit to the Tibetan Plateau.

***Apparently most closely related to *Paridae* (Dickinson 2003; B King pers com.) but please let us do our bit to avoid a newly concocted English name – which the risk of keyboard distress prevents me typing here _____ - ____ - from slipping into common usage!

Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Nine bird-days. Noted daily in Qinghai.

Daurian Jackdaw *Corvus dauuricus*

Four en route on 18th.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Five en route on 17th.

***ssp *pastinator* differs from the nominate in lacking 'bare chalky white facial skin [...] and has a more sharply pointed bill': Brazil (2009).

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Four at Wild Duck Lake on 12th.

Collared Crow *Corvus pectoralis*

Singles daily in Henan.

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*

Four bird-days. Noted on just two dates.

Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulous*

Ten at Wild Duck Lake on 12th.

'Eastern' Great Tit *Parus minor*

36 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

Yellow-bellied Tit *Parus venustus*

19 bird-days. This striking endemic was noted daily in Henan – nice views, eventually...

Songar Tit *Parus songarus affinis*

Ten bird-days. Noted N of Xining on both 17+19th.

***Note that of the several Songar Tit ssp maybe only *weigoldicus* merits full species status (the rest are now lumped back in with Willow Tit *Parus montanus* by e g IOC).

Grey Crested Tit *Parus dichrous*

Four bird-days. Noted N of Xining on two dates – the song of one on 17th was 'remarkably similar to Crimson-browed Finch's'!

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

17 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

Ten bird-days. Noted en route in Henan on both 13+16th.

Black-throated Tit *Aegithalos concinnus*

45 bird-days. Noted daily over 13-16th.

Stoliczka's Tit-Warbler *Leptopoecile sophiae*

Six bird-days. Noted on two dates N of Xining.

***Getting repeated views of this not-so-subtly patterned beauty was *please tick as appropriate* [] great. [] fantastic. [] nothing to brag about.

Mongolian Lark *Melanocorypha mongolica*

Ten birds at Koko Nor on 18th.

Long-billed Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha maxima*
Seven at Koko Nor on 18th.

Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*
85 at Wild Duck Lake on 12th.

Hume's Short-toed Lark *Calandrella acutirostris*
Just one at Koko Nor on 18th.

Asian Short-toed Lark *Calandrella cheleensis*
Ten at Wild Duck Lake on 12th.

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*
Two at Wild Duck Lake on 12th.

Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula*
70+ in the Koko Nor area on 18th.

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*
25+ at Koko Nor on 18th.

Collared Finchbill *Spizixos semitorques*
Nine bird-days. Noted daily in Henan.

Brown-breasted Bulbul *Pycnonotus xanthorrhous*
Eight on 14th.

Chinese Bulbul *Pycnonotus sinensis*
320 bird-days. Noted in Henan on three dates – main event 305, incl 280 migr, on 16th.

Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler *Cettia fortipes*
37 bird-days. 4-17 heard daily in Henan... curiously unresponsive to playback!

Gansu Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus kansuensis*
19 bird-days. Noted N of Xining on two dates.
***This attractive warbler was only recently reaccepted as a valid species, and its winter quarters remain undiscovered...

Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*
19 bird-days. Noted daily in Henan.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*
53 bird-days. Noted daily in Henan – main events 24 on 14th & 21 on 15th.

Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei mandellii*
One N of Xining on 19th – about as early in the season as one could hope for one...
***Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) treats both ssp as full species, noting that “although the call of *mandellii* is markedly different from [nominate] *humei*, the whistled songs of both taxa are variable and often inseparable. While *mandellii* is genetically closer to *humei* than to *inornatus*, it

is long-separated from either according to mtDNA (Irwin *et al.* 2001); its status as a full species thus remains equivocal.”

Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*

21 bird-days. Noted on three dates in Henan – main event 15 on 14th: most were heard-onlies but curiosity got the better of four when we whistled back at them.

***Zheng *et al.* (2005) listed ssp *styani* for S Henan.

Masked Laughingthrush *Garrulax perspicillatus*

12+ bird-days. Noted on three dates – on 14th, three allowed ‘scope viewing as they went about their business next to the accommodation.

Hwamei *Garrulax canorus*

29 bird-days. Noted daily in Henan – no fewer than 20 on 14th, incl two showing well.

Elliot’s Laughingthrush *Garrulax elliotii*

26 bird-days. Noted N of Xining on two dates.

Vinous-throated Parrotbill *Paradoxornis webbianus*

48+ bird-days. Noted on five dates – main event 27 at Wild Duck Lake on 12th.

Chestnut-flanked Whiteeye *Zosterops erythropleurus*

8+ bird-days. Noted in Henan on two dates.

Japanese Whiteeye *Zosterops japonicus*

19 bird-days. Noted in Henan on three dates – main event eight showing well in the evening of 15th, but one on 14th which mimicked both Chinese & Claudia’s Leaf Warblers was perhaps of greater interest...

*****Whiteeye sp** *Zosterops sp*

Five on 13th.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Three N of Xining on 17th.

Northern Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Six bird-days. Noted N of Xining on both 17+19th.

Chinese Nuthatch *Sitta villosa*

Nine on 17th.

Eurasian Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

12 bird-days. Noted N of Xining on two dates.

Crested Myna *Acridotheres cristellatus*

23 bird-days. Noted en route on both 13+16th.

Red-billed Starling *Sturnus sericeus*

30+ bird-days. Noted in Henan & en route to the airport on two dates – superb views of two bathing in a stream on 16th!

White-cheeked Starling *Sturnus cineraceus*

Ten bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Eurasian Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Two at Wild Duck Lake on 12th.

Blue Whistling Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus*

Four bird-days. Noted on two dates in Henan – all were dark-billed birds.

Chinese Blackbird *Turdus mandarinus*

Six bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Chestnut Thrush *Turdus rubrocanus*

Single males at Koko Nor on 18th & N of Xining on 19th.

***The 2nd bird '[looked] darker-headed' – *rubrocanus* (with a 'very pale grey hood, (somewhat darker on the crown, nape and sides of head) and pale and dark markings on belly-centre': Robson, 2008) was listed for 'S Xizang, N & W Sichuan' by Zheng *et al.* (2005), while *gouldii* (with a dark brownish-grey hood: Robson, 2008) was listed for 'S Shaanxi, Ningxia, Gansu, SE Qinghai, E Xizang, W Yunnan, NW Guizhou, W Sichuan, Chongqing & W Hubei' by Zheng *et al.* (2005).

Kessler's Thrush *Turdus kessleri*

Five bird-days. Noted in Qinghai on two dates.

Black-throated Thrush *Turdus atrogularis*

One N of Xining on 17th.

Red-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis*

26 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Naumann's Thrush *Turdus naumanni*

Single ssp *eunomus* birds on both 14+15th – nice 'scope views of the 2nd bird...

Northern Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus*

27 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

***Apparently (L Svensson pers com) birds breeding in NE Qinghai – with a white brow in adult males – are *albocoeruleus*, a taxon hitherto considered of doubtful validity, but with a song distinct from both *cyanurus*' & *rufilatus*' [as we couldn't help noticing N of Xining on 17+19th]. It is genetically closer to *cyanurus*, but has legs as long as *rufilatus*'.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

11 bird-days. Noted only on 18th...

***ssp *phoenicuroides*, which Zheng *et al.* (2005) lists for Xinjiang & W Xizang, was, 'pending further research', included with *rufiventris* by Svensson (1992) although in the latter the adult male is 'on average blacker above and larger in size, but much overlap'. Ssp *xerophilus* was listed by Zheng *et al.* (2005) for Qinghai & S Xinjiang, and by BWP (Vol V, p683) for 'Astin Tagh (Sinkiang) to Western Kansu and Tsinghai' but this ssp not recognized by e.g. Dickinson (2003), and BWP (Vol V, p694-695) notes that its position requires confirmation, it having been described 'as being pale like *phoenicuroides* and large like *rufiventris*'.

Hodgson's Redstart *Phoenicurus hodgsoni*

Six were seen N of Xining on 17th.

White-throated Redstart *Phoenicurus schisticeps*

21 bird-days. Noted N of Xining on both 17+19th – definitely a runner-up for the ‘Prettiest in the Genus’ accolade!

Daurian Redstart *Phoenicurus aureus*

One male at Wild Duck Lake on 12th.

Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis*

Ten bird-days. Noted on two dates N of Xining - we found it hard to turn away from several glowing, confiding males of this species...

River Chat *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*

One near Koko Nor on 18th.

White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus leschenaulti*

Two heard on 14th.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*

Five on the Plateau on 18th.

White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Four bird-days. Noted in Qinghai on three dates.

Russet Sparrow *Passer rutilans*

Nine bird-days. Noted in Henan on three dates.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Widespread – not systematically recorded.

Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia*

Five on the Plateau on 18th.

Pere David’s Snowfinch *Pyrgilauda davidiana*

Four at Koko Nor on 18th.

***It is doubly misleading to call this ‘one of the most localized snowfinch species’ (as done by H Jannes in a 2011 Birdquest trip report) as

a) its range is vast, covering SE Russian Altai, Mongolia & SE Transbaikalia S to E Qinghai and W & C Inner Mongolia (Dickinson, 2003)!

b) the only Snowfinch that could be reasonably said to be ‘localized’ is Afghan Snowfinch *Pyrgilauda theresae*, ‘endemic to the N & C ranges of the Hindu Kush, Afghanistan (Shibar, Sabz & Unai Passes, Bamian [Prov]), between approximately 67° and 69°E’, descending from its summer range between 2575-3000m to lower levels, and ‘occasionally moves N into Badghyz and Karabil, SE Turkmenistan’: Clement *et al.* (1993)!

Robin Accentor *Prunella rubeculoides*

Two N of Xining on 17th.

Rufous-browed Accentor *Prunella strophhiata*

Seven bird-days. Noted N of Xining on both 17+19th.

Brown Accentor *Prunella fulvescens*

One on the Plateau on 18th.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*

Eight males on the Plateau on 18th – six were ssp *citreola* & two were not seen well enough to be sure either way...

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Five bird-days. Noted on four dates.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

51 bird-days. Noted on five dates – main event 22 at Wild Duck lake on 12th: ten *leucopsis*, four *baicalensis* & eight *ocularis*...

***Lest we forget: Alstrom & Mild (2003) concluded that various factors “suggest that the White Wagtail is best treated as a single species under the BSC.”

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

20 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseus*

16 bird-days. Noted on three dates – two at Wild Duck Lake on 12th were of note, even if one seen on 18th was more memorable, being ‘well advanced towards summer plumage’.

Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens*

Five at Wild Duck Lake on 12th.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Ten bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Single birds in Henan daily over 14-16th.

Oriental Greenfinch *Carduelis sinica*

Ten bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Eurasian Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Five – incl two fine males - in Henan on 15th:

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

60+ on the Plateau on 18th.

Plain Mountain Finch *Leucosticte nemoricola*

A flock of 50 headed W at Koko Nor on 18th.

Mongolian Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes mongolicus*

A flock of nine headed NW at Koko Nor on 18th.

Chinese Beautiful Rosefinch *Carpodacus davidianus*

12 bird-days. Noted on two dates N of Xining – our persistence paid off when a fine adult male was finally discovered mixing in with five female-types around still leaf-less scrub at c2600m.

