



## **Mammals:**

### **Tibetan Dwarf Hamster** *Cricetulus tibetanus*

One was seen very well on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Mid-Day Gerbil** *Meriones meridianus*

Three animal-days. Noted on two dates but not exactly easy to get on...

\*\*\*'The most desert-adapted of all gerbils. It occupies sandy terrain with different degrees of soil stabilization, preferring brushy habitat characterized by thorn scrub under which it constructs its burrows. Primarily nocturnal (in contrast with *M. unguiculatus*); it is only active during the day during winter. It is unclear how it was given the common name.'; Smith & Xie (2008).

### **Gansu Pika** *Ochotona cansus*

Just one seen [AH] on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Plateau Pika** *Ochotona curzoniae*

Widespread – not systematically recorded.

### **Glover's Pika** *Ochotona gloveri*

8+ animal-days. Noted on two dates – one on 25<sup>th</sup> 'up on massive boulder across the river somehow spotted by AH as it sat silhouetted against the far-off sky, in the absence of fiercer creatures absolute ruler of that piece of hard-to-get-to real estate'..

### **Woolly Hare** *Lepus oiostolus*

9+ animal-days. Seen on at least five dates – main event 4+ on 23<sup>rd</sup>, when numerous tracks crisscrossing the fresh snow suggested that at least twice that number were present.

### **Pallas' Cat** *Felis manul*

One allowed extended 'scope views as it sat out on a sunny knoll on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **\*\*\*Snow Leopard** *Uncia uncia*

Tracks in the snow...

### **Wolf** *Canis lupus*

11 animal-days. Noted on four dates – a long session with two individuals at c4,800m on 24<sup>th</sup>: one of them was seen trying to punch through a patch of frozen snow, then carried on tentatively while the other animal was lying down. All of a sudden that one was making off in a different direction carrying a Tibetan Fox (!), seemingly trying to take advantage of the lay of the land to get away and not share the meal with its companion... nice plan, but as they disappeared from view the more active individual was firmly on the trail of the meal-carrying one.

### **Tibetan Fox** *Vulpes ferrilata*

48 animal-days. Noted on no fewer than seven dates, with any number of satisfying encounters and several photo opportunities: what an animal!

### **Red Fox** *Vulpes vulpes*

Singles were noted on four dates.

### **Mountain Weasel** *Mustela altaica*

We were pleased to get extended views (and repeated photo ops!) when one was spotted darting about on 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **Kiang** *Equus kiang*

788 animal-days. Noted on five dates. It was a real pleasure to watch these dignified 'donkeys' - in the absence of hunters they (and other large mammals on the Plateau) are fairly confiding, and in a couple of cases we were able to get good-to-decent photos even without the help of long lenses!

**Siberian Roe** *Capreolus pygargus*

5+ on 18<sup>th</sup> got our trip off the ground in style.

**MacNeil's Deer** *Cervus macneilli*

Seven S of Yushu on 25<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\**macneilli* is 'the pale red-grey deer of the eastern margins of the Tibetan plateau': Groves (2005).

**Gansu Red Deer** *Cervus kansuensis*

No fewer than 55 animals in a morning! Memorable 'scope views of several magnificent stags – the crisp air was vibrating with their rutting-time roars, which were audible even from our breakfast spot. \*\*\**vide* Groves (2005), *kansuensis* is 'quite distinct, the winter pelage being especially different: *macneilli* stags are very light, creamy grey, while *kansuensis* stags are deep steely grey. The black on the croup [...] is much more conspicuous in *kansuensis*.'

\*\*\*Subsequently (Groves & Grubb: *Ungulate Taxonomy* (2011)) it was felt that *kansuensis* is probably NOT a valid taxon. There are specimens from S Koko Nor Range 37°N 100°E (where sightings by birders have resulted in claims of White-lipped Deer!) & from Tatung Shan 37°15'N 100°E, and there are sight records from Qilian Shan.

\*\*\*If *kansuensis* ends up being considered invalid the animals we saw were still not 'Red' Deer *Cervus 'elaphus'* but *Cervus canadensis alashanicus*.

**White-lipped Deer** *Przewalskium albirostris*

39 animals in a single day. A herd of 29 included five huge-antlered stags & a full mix of juveniles, females, and 'lesser' stags – at x60 magnification we could see the senior stag roaring repeatedly as it stood silhouetted against the sky, allowing undistorted looks in crisp afternoon air, but what with the distance & the flowing river we were unable to hear it.

**Goitred Gazelle** *Gazella subgutturosa*

31 animal-days. Noted on two dates – 28 in a day was pretty good, especially as the magnificent dawn air allowed undistorted 'scope viewing on x60 magnification.

**Tibetan Gazelle** *Procapra picticaudata*

808+ animal-days. Noted on seven dates – as is the case with Kiang, in the absence of human hunters these nimble creatures are fairly confiding (if still jumpily high-strung, no doubt on account of the healthy population of wolves roaming the hills: in August 2005 we were even privileged to witness four particularly mean-looking wolves undertake a successful hunt, killing and ripping apart a Tibetan Gazelle) - we were able to get frame-filling photos even without the help of heavy artillery lenses.

**Przevalski's Gazelle** *Procapra przewalskii*

76 on 20<sup>th</sup> – all were female/juveniles.

\*\*\*The species has recently be 'downgraded' to 'merely' Endangered (following the discovery of additional herds in 2003) although the world population may be no more than 350-400 mature individuals. See <http://www.iucnredlist.org/apps/redlist/details/18230/0>

\*\*\*Our animals appear to represent an as far as the IUCN is concerned 'undiscovered' population.

**Wild Yak** *Bos grunniensis*

111 animal-days. These impressive animals were seen in to separate areas... WOW! views were had by all.

**Argali** *Ovis ammon*

24 animal-days. Noted on two dates – watching a herd of 14 (incl at least three good-sized males)



**Long-billed Calandra Lark** *Melanocorypha maxima*  
**Common Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*  
**Kozlov's Babax** *Babax koslowi*  
**Elliot's Laughingthrush** *Garrulax elliotii*  
**Chestnut Thrush** *Turdus rubrocanus*  
**Kessler's Thrush** *Turdus kessleri*  
**Northern Red-flanked Bluetail** *Tarsiger cyanurus*  
**Przevalski's Redstart** *Phoenicurus alaschanicus*  
**White-throated Redstart** *Phoenicurus schisticeps*  
**Guldenstadt's Redstart** *Phoenicurus erythrogastrus*  
**Blue-fronted Redstart** *Phoenicurus frontalis*  
**Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva*  
**Red-throated Flycatcher** *Ficedula albicilla*  
**White-throated Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*  
**Henri's Snowfinch** *Montifringilla henrici*  
**Tibetan Snowfinch** *Montifringilla adamsi*  
**White-rumped Snowfinch** *Onychostruthus taczanowskii*  
**Pere David's Snowfinch** *Pyrgilauda davidiana*  
**Rufous-necked Snowfinch** *Pyrgilauda ruficollis*  
**Blanford's Snowfinch** *Pyrgilauda blanfordi*  
**Robin Accentor** *Prunella rubeculoides*  
**Brown Accentor** *Prunella fulvescens*  
**Przevalski's Rosefinch** *Urocynchramus pylzowi*  
**Pink-rumped Rosefinch** *Carpodacus eos*  
**Pallas's Rosefinch** *Carpodacus roseus*  
**Chinese White-browed Rosefinch** *Carpodacus dubius*  
**Eastern Great Rosefinch** *Carpodacus rubicilloides*  
**Spotted Great Rosefinch** *Carpodacus severtzovi*  
**Pine Bunting** *Emberiza leucocephalos*  
**Eastern Rock Bunting** *Emberiza godlewskii*