Mammals of N Tibet, 11-29 May 2012:

An at-a-glance list of 17 species of mammals (& birdwatching highlights).

By Jesper Hornskov ***this draft 3 July 2012*** ALL RIGHTS RESERVED®

Please note that the following list is best considered a work in progress. It should not be quoted without consulting the author.

Based mostly on my own field notes, this brief write-up covers mammals noted by L Baunstrup, C Enevoldsen, E Heberg, E J Kruse, P Lafrenz (DOF), J Larsen & myself during the 2012 DOF Travel (Danish Ornithological Society) visit to China’s Qinghai province.

The mammals, the birds (232 species in total), the butterflies, the plants, the unbeatable scenery, a stimulating mix of local cultures, wonderful food, comfortable accommodations & (not least) the companionship all came together to produce a trip the more memorable for the region being so under-visited by naturalists.

Anyone considering China as a destination for mammal watching is welcome to contact the author at:

E-mail  goodbirdmail(at)gmail.com or goodbirdmail(at)126.com

Tel/fax  +86 10 8490 9562 / NEW MOBILE +86 139 1124 0659

Enquiries concerning future trips to Tibet (several are currently planned) or Yunnan - our trips to China’s biologically most diverse province have been very popular - can be made directly to this author.

In the species list the concept "animal-days" is used - it is the equivalent of man-hours, the day totals added up – it indicates relative abundance but does not consider the “problem” of lingering individuals or, important in a non-scientific context such as a natural history holiday abroad, how satisfying the encounters were. 25 animal-days for e.g. Goitered Gazelle could be one distant herd vanishing in a cloud of dust before you’d had a good look at them, or one individual lingering for 25 days, offering the observers point-blank views anytime in that period…

The sequence of the mammal list follows “A Guide to the Mammals of China”, Smith & Xie (ed.) 2008, while in the list of bird highlights I have followed The Howard and Moore Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World – 3rd Edition (Dickinson 2003), in my opinion by far the most useful one-volume checklist to date.

Initials in brackets after a few single-observer sightings does not imply that I have doubts as to the correctness of the ID!


vvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvv
**Mammals:**

**Himalayan Marmot** *Marmota himalayana*
Fairly common & often confiding, engaging in wrestling contests close to the road or sitting back watching the world go by – encountered on at least six dates.

**Gansu Pika** *Ochotona cansus*
Four seen well at c4200m on 17th.

**Plateau Pika** *Ochotona curzoniae*
Widespread – not systematically recorded.

**Glover’s Pika** *Ochotona gloveri*
Singles noted on at least three dates.

**Woolly Hare** *Lepus oiostolus*
17+ animal-days. Noted on seven dates.

**Tolai Hare** *Lepus tolai*
Two near Xining on 11th.

**Wolf** *Canis lupus*
No less than 13 individuals were seen: two packs of three on different kills, a pack of four, two together, and a single female no more than 100m from the road allowing us to get some pretty decent photos! Noted on four dates...

**Tibetan Fox** *Vulpes ferrilata*
36 animal-days. Noted on six dates.

**Red Fox** *Vulpes vulpes*
Four animal-days. Noted on two dates.

**Kiang** *Equus kiang*
558 animal-days. Noted on three dates.

**MacNeill’s (Red) Deer** *Cervus macneilli.*
28 animal-days. Noted S of Yushu on two dates.

**Gansu Red Deer** *Cervus kansuensis*
Three fully antlered stags W of Koko Nor on 27th - ‘greyer [than animals seen S of Yushu on 19+23 May]… but they swiveled ‘round too soon’, not allowing scrutiny.

**White-lipped Deer** *Przewalskium albirostris*
A herd of 28 seen well S of Yushu on 23rd …

**Goitred Gazelle** *Gazella subgutturosa*
63 individuals on 27th – excellent views in early morning sun…

**Tibetan Gazelle** *Procapra picticaudata*
1,333 animal-days. Noted on seven dates.
Tibetan Antelope *Panthalops hodgsonii*
Seeing 402 individuals along the remotest Roof of the World stretch of road was truly something to remember…
***See [http://www.iucnredlist.org/apps/redlist/details/15967/0](http://www.iucnredlist.org/apps/redlist/details/15967/0)

Blue Sheep *Pseudois nayaur*
224 animal-days. Noted on five dates.

BIRDS — among the highlights (a detailed list is being prepared):

Szechenyi’s Monal Partridge *Tetraophasis szechenyi*
Tibetan Snowcock *Tetraogallus tibetanus*
Blood Pheasant *Ithaginis cruentus*
White Eared Pheasant *Crossoptilon crossoptilon*
Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*
Saker *Falco cherrug*
Lammergeier *Gypaetus barbatus*
Himalayan Griffon *Gyps himalayensis*
Himalayan Buzzard *Buteo hemilasius*
Upland Buzzard *Buteo ibex*
Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*
Demoiselle Crane *Anthropoides virgo*
Black-necked Crane *Grus nigricollis*
Ibisbill *Ibidorhyncha struthersii*
Pallas’ Sandgrouse *Syrrhaptes paradoxus*
Snow Pigeon *Columba leuconota*
Hoopoe *Upupa epops*
Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius*
Henderson’s Ground Jay *Podoces hendersoni*
Hume’s Groundpecker *Pseudopodoces humilis*
White-browed Tit-Warbler *Leptopoecile sophiae*
Crested Tit-Warbler *Leptopoecile elegans*
Kozlov’s Babax *Babax koslowi*
Giant Laughingthrush *Garrulax maximus*
Przevalski’s Nuthatch *Sitta przwalskii*
Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria*
Siberian Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope*
Przevalski’s Redstart *Phoenicurus alaschanicus*
Grandala *Grandala coelicolor*
White-rumped Snowfinch *Onychostruthus taczanowskii*
Przevalski’s Rosefinch *Urocynchramus pyzowi*
Chinese White-browed Rosefinch *Carpodacus dubius*
Roborovski’s Rosefinch *Kozlowia roborowskii*
Kozlov’s Bunting *Emberiza koslowi*