



## **Mammals:**

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

One seen at close range on 6<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*In addition, one was found killed on the road along the S edge of the Qaidam. Zhang (1997) listed the species for nowhere closer than Delingha, roughly at the same longitude but on the N edge of the basin.

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

Noted on four dates - 25 individuals in total; daily max 16 on 6<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*One on 13<sup>th</sup> was seen hunting a pika: running up, then back, body straight as a board but reaching an impasse where any next inch of progress would reveal the fox's presence in time for the pika to dive into its safe burrow. That's how we left them, in the snowy landscape...

### **Asian Badger** *Meles leucurus*

One at long range S of the Maduo wetland on 6<sup>th</sup>.

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

3-4 on 5<sup>th</sup> & one [AG] on 8<sup>th</sup>.

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

1,323 animal-days, concerning no less than 1,251 individuals noted on five dates.

### **Wild Yak** *Bos grunniens*

626 individuals counted: 625 in 'Yak Valley', and a distant (10kms!?) lone bull on 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Goitred Gazelle** *Gazella subgutturosa*

56 animal-days. Noted on three dates.

\*\*\*In the time-honoured way we worked hard for our first sightings only to see more easily later on...

### **Tibetan Antelope** *Pantholops hodgsoni*

335 animal-days, relating to 287 individuals noted over two days.

\*\*\*Some were close enough to photograph.

### **Tibetan Gazelle** *Procapra picticaudata*

1,072 animal-days, relating to 992+ individuals noted on five dates.

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

A group of nine (a buck with four females each with a youngster) was an exceptionally good find.

\*\*\*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 represent an additional 'undiscovered' population.

### **Blue Sheep** *Pseudois nayaur*

13 animal-days. Two on 5<sup>th</sup>, six on 13<sup>th</sup> & five on 15<sup>th</sup> were all at considerable distance and fewer than we might reasonably have expected as previous, bird-centered trips have yielded groups of up to 30+ animals.

### **Argali** *Ovis ammon*

67 in 'Yak Valley' was a great bonus, particularly as some allowed extended viewing at reasonable range.

\*\*\*"Seeing Argali, Wild Yak & Kiang in the same 'scope field-of-view on a hillside is about as much as one can hope for, mammal-wise, in this part of the world."



## **Bird highlights:**

### **Tibetan Snowcock** *Tetraogallus tibetanus*

19+ bird-days. Noted on two dates, with 17+ on 14<sup>th</sup> a bonus.

\*\*\*Two treated us to excellent, close-up out-in-the-morning-sun views as they cackled, whistled, and excitedly cocked their tails!

### **Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*

c1,360 bird-days.

### **Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*

361+ bird-days. Noted on eight dates with a daily max of 227.

### **Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

33 bird-days. This charismatic duck was noted on four dates – main event 20 at Koko Nor.

### **Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra*

Two, or possibly three, present at Koko Nor on 3<sup>rd</sup>. At least one was an adult bird...

### **Eurasian Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*

Four bird-days.

### **Saker** *Falco cherrug*

56 bird-days. Noted on nine dates.

\*\*\*Mobbing behavior was noted twice on 13<sup>th</sup>: once the victim was a Lammergeier, while another bird, a juvenile female, was after a Hen Harrier in what appeared to be close to a genuine attack.

### **Lammergeier** *Gypaetus barbatus*

31 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

\*\*\*Bone-dropping behavior seen well several times.

### **Himalayan Griffon** *Gyps himalayensis*

121+ bird-days. Noted on ten dates. Main event 42 on 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

12 bird-days. Noted on five dates. Main event five (four 1<sup>st</sup> c-y birds & one adult male) at Koko Nor on 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Northern Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

Singles on 5+6<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*The juvenile at the wetland on 6<sup>th</sup> was chased by Brown-headed Gulls and then landed on roof beams of a disintegrating hut...

### **Upland Buzzard** *Buteo hemilasius*

235 bird-days. Noted on ten dates. Main event 128 on 6<sup>th</sup>. Interestingly, eight at Er La Pass on 4<sup>th</sup> were all heading S.

### **Greater Spotted Eagle** *Aquila clanga*

Three bird-days. One on 4<sup>th</sup> & two on 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Steppe Eagle** *Aquila nipalensis*

53 bird-days. Noted on nine dates. Main events 13 migr on 4<sup>th</sup> (with several seen very well being one of the ingredients in a superb raptor passage which was unfortunately curtailed by heavy hail showers) and 14 migr the next day.

**Eastern Imperial Eagle** *Aquila heliaca*

Three bird-days. One immature migr on 6<sup>th</sup> & two immatures (of which at least one was migr) on 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos*

24 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

**Demoiselle Crane** *Anthropoides virgo*

Patience paid off on 3<sup>rd</sup> with a flock of c185 passing at 18h22... On 9<sup>th</sup> four migr over Rubber Mt may have been the last of the season.

**Black-necked Crane** *Grus nigricollis*

28 bird-days, involving as many individuals noted on two dates.

**Tibetan Sandgrouse** *Syrrhaptes tibetana*

Six on 13<sup>th</sup>... mixing in with the Chirus we were photographing: Tingaling!

**Eurasian Eagle-Owl** *Bubo bubo*

Two bird-days. One flew across the road N of Gonghe on 9<sup>th</sup>; the other was seen memorably in Roadside Wood on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

Four bird-days.

**Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*

Two migrants roosting in desert poplars on 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Tibetan Grey Shrike** *Lanius (s.) giganteus*

One in desert W of Chaka on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Tibetan Magpie** *Pica (pica) bottanensis*

One in Wild Yak Valley on 11<sup>th</sup> & eight W of Dulan on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Henderson's Ground Jay** *Podoces hendersoni*

Seven bird-days. Seen only in the Qaidam, with three on 10<sup>th</sup> & four on 14<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\* Several offered photo opportunities as our driver deftly maneuvered the car turned mobile hide into position.

**Hume's Groundpecker** *Pseudopodoces humilis*

129 bird-days. Noted on 11 dates.

**Common Raven** *Corvus corax*

247+ bird-days. Noted on nine dates. Daily maximum 138 on 12<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*One on 12<sup>th</sup> was in a playful mood: it hang upside-down from a wire, first holding on with both feet, then just with one, holding on for several seconds before letting go.

**Pere David's Laughingthrush** *Garrulax davidi*

Five near Xining on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Guldenstadt's Redstart** *Phoenicurus erythrogastrus*

27 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

**Tibetan Snowfinch** *Montifringilla adamsi*

69 bird-days. Noted on two dates. Main event 60 in The Gully on 4<sup>th</sup>.

