

Directory of Important Bird Areas in China (Mainland): Key Sites for Conservation

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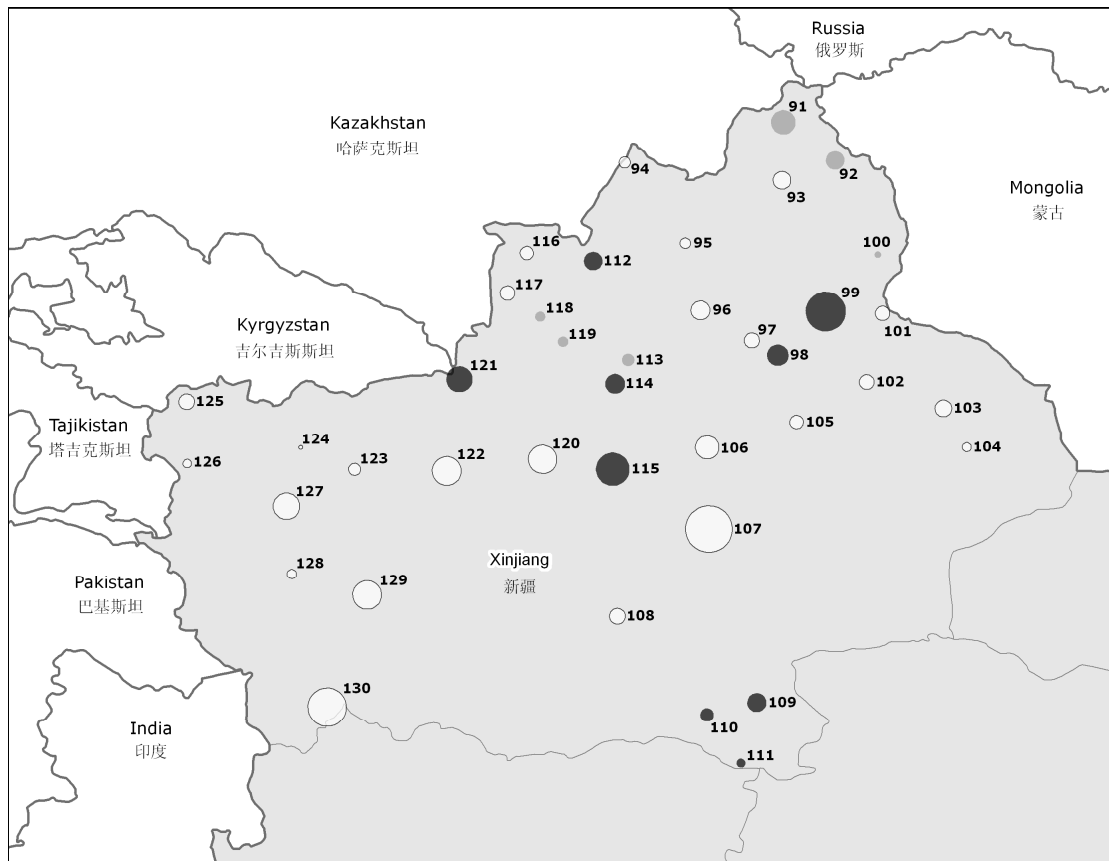
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Important Bird Areas in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region



IBAs are represented on the map as circles proportional to their areas.

Key: ● = Protected; ● = Partially protected; ○ = Unprotected.



Bayanbulak (CN114), the famous 'Xinjiang Swan Lake'. (PHOTO: MA MING)

IBA CODE: CN091

NAME: Burqin River and Kanas Lake

CRITERIA: A1 A3 A4i

AREA: About 210,000 ha

COORDINATES: 48°20'N 87°0'E

ALTITUDE: 490-3,000 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Established as a nature reserve in 1980, and upgraded to a national nature reserve in 1986 (with an area of 250,000 ha, of which 100,000 ha overlaps with the IBA).

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located in the southern part of the Altay Mountains, near to the Chinese borders with Kazakhstan, Russia and Mongolia, 100 km west of Altay City and 450 km north of Urumqi. The Burqin River is a tributary of the Ertix River, which flows into the Arctic Ocean. There are extensive reedbeds and grasslands along the Burqin River, and it is important for breeding and migratory birds.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Falco cherrug* (EN), *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* (VU), *Aquila clanga* (VU), *Aquila heliaca* (VU), *Falco naumanni* (VU), *Otis tarda* (VU), *Columba eversmanni* (VU)

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert

CONGREGATORY WATERBIRDS: *Phalacrocorax carbo* (over 10,000 birds on migration), *Bucephala clangula*, *Mergus merganser*

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Nationally protected animals include *Ursus arctos* and *Cervus elaphus*, and the fish *Hucho* spp.

IBA CODE: CN092

NAME: Altay forest and steppe

CRITERIA: A1 A3 A4i

AREA: About 120,000 ha

COORDINATES: 47°50'N 88°40'E

ALTITUDE: 960-3,200 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: The IBA overlaps with a provincial-level nature reserve (90,000 ha) that was established in 1986.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located in the central part of the Altay Mountains, on the border between China and Mongolia. The IBA includes the Kara Ertix He river, a tributary of the Ertix River, and Youyi Feng (4,374 m) and Kuytun Shan (4,104 m), which are the highest peaks in the Altay Mountains.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Falco cherrug* (EN), *Aythya baeri* (VU), *Aquila clanga* (VU), *Aquila heliaca* (VU), *Falco naumanni* (VU), *Otis tarda* (VU), *Saxicola insignis* (VU)

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert; AS05: Eurasian high montane

CONGREGATORY WATERBIRDS: *Ciconia nigra*, *Grus grus*

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Nationally protected animals include *Ursus arctos* and *Cervus elaphus*, and the fish *Hucho* spp.

IBA CODE: CN093

NAME: Ulungur Hu and Jili Hu (Fu Hai)

CRITERIA: A1 A3 A4i

AREA: About 110,000 ha

COORDINATES: 47°15'N 87°20'E

ALTITUDE: 468-600 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Unprotected

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located on the southern slopes of the Altay Mountains, north of the Junggar Basin, 100 km south-west of Altay City and 370 km north of Urumqi. Ulungur Hu has an area of 739 km² and is the second largest lake in Xinjiang, and it is linked to Jili Hu which has an area of 172 km². The extensive reedbeds and marshes in the IBA are important breeding and staging areas for birds.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Anser cygnoides* (EN), *Pelecanus crispus* (VU), *Aythya baeri* (VU), *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* (VU), *Falco naumanni* (VU), *Otis tarda* (VU)

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert

CONGREGATORY WATERBIRDS: *Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Casmerodius albus*, *Cygnus olor*, *Tadorna ferruginea*, *Anas platyrhynchos*, *Netta rufina*, *Charadrius dubius*, *Charadrius alexandrinus*, *Charadrius mongolus*, *Vanellus vanellus*, *Sterna hirundo*, *Sterna albifrons*

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Nationally protected animals include *Vulpes vulpes* and *Gazella subgutturosa*.

IBA CODE: CN094

NAME: Tacheng (Qoqek) area

CRITERIA: A1 A3

AREA: About 45,000 ha

COORDINATES: 46°50'N 83°0'E

ALTITUDE: 440-2,000 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Unprotected

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located on the southern slopes of the Tarbagatay Mountains, west of the Junggar Basin, 200 km north-west of Karamay City and 500 km from Urumqi. The Emin River flows westward through the IBA into Kazakhstan's Ozero Alakol, and the flood plain and marshes along the river are breeding and staging habitats for birds.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Oxyura leucocephala* (EN), *Falco cherrug* (EN), *Aquila heliaca* (VU), *Falco naumanni* (VU), *Otis tarda* (VU, 2,000 birds found during a survey in 2004 including breeding birds), *Saxicola insignis* (VU)

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Nationally protected species include *Canis lupus*, *Vulpes vulpes*, *Mustela eversmanni*, *Lepus capensis*, *Saiga tatarica* and *Ovis ammon*.

IBA CODE: CN095

NAME: Karamay desert and lakes

CRITERIA: A1 A3

AREA: About 38,000 ha

COORDINATES: 45°40'N 85°10'E

ALTITUDE: 250-400 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Unprotected

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located in the western part of the Junggar Basin, 300 km north-west of Urumqi. Manas Hu lake in the northern part of the IBA is now dry and has turned into salt marsh. Ailike Hu lake and Urho are important breeding and staging areas for birds.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Marmaronetta angustirostris* (VU), *Otis tarda* (VU)

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Nationally protected animals include *Vulpes vulpes* and *Gazella subgutturosa*.

IBA CODE: CN096

NAME: Oasis, Desert and Wetland at Mosuowan

CRITERIA: A1 A3 A4i,A4iii

AREA: About 125,000 ha

COORDINATES: 44°30'N 86°0'E

ALTITUDE: 350-800 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Unprotected

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located on the northern slope of the Tian Shan mountains, and in the southern part of the Junggar Basin. The main river of the IBA is the Manas, which originates from the central section of the Tian Shan, and the flood plain has fertile soil. The man-made channels, networks of natural rivers and the lakes are important staging areas for migratory birds. The Gurbantünggüt Desert and surrounding areas are within the historical ranges of *Camelus ferus*, *Equus hemionus*, *Gazella subgutturosa* and *Saiga tatarica*.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Oxyura leucocephala* (EN), *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* (VU), *Aquila clanga* (VU), *Aquila heliaca* (VU), *Falco naumanni* (VU)

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert

CONGREGATORY WATERBIRDS: *Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Casmerodius albus*, *Cygnus cygnus* (several hundred in winter), *Anser anser*, *Tadorna ferruginea*, *Anas strepera*, *Anas platyrhynchos* (over 10,000 birds in winter and on migration), *Anas clypeata*, *Anas crecca*, *Netta rufina*, *Aythya fuligula*, *Vanellus vanellus*, *Larus ichthyaetus*, *Larus ridibundus* (over 10,000 on migration), *Sterna hirundo*, *Sterna albifrons*

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Historical records of *Equus przewalskii* and *Saiga tatarica*, but they are now locally extinct. Other animals include *Equus hemionus* and *Gazella subgutturosa*.

IBA CODE: CN097

NAME: Desert and wetland from Northern Urumqi to Dabancheng

CRITERIA: A1 A3 A4i,A4iii

AREA: About 80,000 ha

COORDINATES: 44°10'N 87°30'E

ALTITUDE: 400-1,800 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Unprotected

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Urumqi is the capital city of Xinjiang, and is located on the northern slope of the Tian Shan Mountains, at the foot of Bogda Mountain on the southern edge of the Junggar Basin. The habitats in the IBA include flood plains, marshes, rivers and lakes, which are important staging sites for migratory birds. There are six wetlands of about 40,000 ha scattered between Chaiwobao and Dabancheng in Urumqi, and from Qinggeda Hu to Dongdao Haizi in Wujiaqu City; when more information is available it might be possible to separate these areas into two IBAs.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Oxyura leucocephala* (EN), *Falco cherrug* (EN), *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* (VU), *Otis tarda* (VU)

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert

CONGREGATORY WATERBIRDS: *Podiceps cristatus*, *Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Casmerodius albus*, *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Cygnus cygnus*, *Anser anser* (750 birds recorded), *Tadorna ferruginea*, *Anas strepera*, *Anas platyrhynchos*, *Anas crecca*, *Vanellus vanellus*, *Recurvirostra avosetta*, *Larus ichthyaetus*, *Larus ridibundus*, *Sterna hirundo*, *Sterna albifrons*

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Nationally protected animals include *Gazella subgutturosa*. The northern part of the area is within the historical ranges of *Camelus ferus*, *Equus hemionus*, *Gazella subgutturosa* and *Saiga tatarica*.



White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala* was recently discovered to breed in the Desert and Wetland from Northern Urumqi to Dabancheng IBA (CN097). (PHOTO: GOU JUN)

IBA CODE: CN098

NAME: Bogda (Tian Chi)

CRITERIA: A1 A3

AREA: About 160,000 ha

COORDINATES: 44°0'N 88°15'E

ALTITUDE: 450-5,445 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Established as a nature reserve in 1980, and was designated in 1990 (under the name 'Bogeda') as a 'Biosphere Reserve' under UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme. It is now Xinjiang Tianchi Scenic Nature Reserve (160,000 ha).

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located the mountainous area of Bogda, Tianshan, on the southern edge of the Junggar Basin, 70 km east of Changji City and 50 km east of Urumqi. The highest peak in the IBA is Bogda Feng at 5,445 m, which is covered by snow all year round. The main habitats include montane grassland, scrub, forest, meadow, snowfields and glaciers. The IBA is in the historical range of *Camelus ferus*, *Equus hemionus*, *Gazella subgutturosa* and *Saiga tatarica*.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* (VU), *Aquila clanga* (VU), *Aquila heliaca* (VU)

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert; AS05: Eurasian high montane

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Historical records of *Camelus ferus* and *Saiga tatarica*, but they are now locally extinct. Other nationally protected animals include *Equus hemionus* and *Gazella subgutturosa*.

IBA CODE: CN099

NAME: Karamay Mountains

CRITERIA: A1 A3

AREA: About 560,000 ha

COORDINATES: 45°00'N 89°15'E

ALTITUDE: 700-1,451 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: The IBA is inside Karamay Kalamaili Shan Nature Reserve (1,589,958 ha), which was established in 1982 and upgraded to provincial level in 1986.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The main habitat in the IBA is grassland.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Falco cherrug* (EN, breeding), *Falco naumanni* (VU, breeding), *Chlamydotis undulata* (VU, breeding), *Aquila clanga* (VU)

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert; AS05: Eurasian high montane

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Its nature reserve was established for wild ungulates.

IBA CODE: CN100

NAME: Burgen River Valley

CRITERIA: A1 A3

AREA: About 15,000 ha

COORDINATES: 46°15'N 90°20'E

ALTITUDE: 1,000-3,300 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: The IBA includes the provincial-level Bulgan Nature Reserve (5,000 ha), which was established in 1980 for the conservation of Eurasian Beaver *Castor fiber*.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located east of the Altay Mountains on the boundary between China and Mongolia, 260 km south-east of Aletai City and 350 km north-east of Urumqi. The rivers in the IBA are major tributaries of the Ulungur River.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Anser cygnoides* (EN), *Falco cherrug* (EN), *Aythya baeri* (VU), *Aquila heliaca* (VU), *Falco naumanni* (VU), *Otis tarda* (VU), *Chlamydotis undulata* (VU), *Saxicola insignis* (VU)

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Historical records of *Saiga tatarica*, but now locally extinct. Other nationally protected animals include *Gazella subgutturosa*, *Ovis ammon* and *Castor fiber*.

IBA CODE: CN101

NAME: Baytik Shan

CRITERIA: A1 A3

AREA: About 73,000 ha

COORDINATES: 45°10'N 90°45'E

ALTITUDE: 1,200-3,290 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Unprotected

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located in the south-eastern part of the Altay Mountains and in the eastern part of Junggar Basin, on the boundary between China and Mongolia, 300 km north-east of Changji City and 290 km north-east from Urumqi. The IBA is arid and the habitats include dry grassland.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Falco cherrug* (EN), *Falco naumanni* (VU), *Otis tarda* (VU), *Chlamydotis undulata* (VU)

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert; AS05: Eurasian high montane

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Historical records of *Camelus ferus* and *Saiga tatarica*, but they are now locally extinct. Other nationally protected animals include *Equus hemionus*, *Ovis ammon* and *Gazella subgutturosa*.

IBA CODE: CN102

NAME: Mori Grassland

CRITERIA: A1 A3

AREA: About 75,000 ha

COORDINATES: 43°50'N 90°40'E

ALTITUDE: 1,000-2,800 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Unprotected

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located on the northern slope of the Tian Shan mountains and at the south-eastern tip of the Junggar Basin, 300 km east of Changji City and 280 km east of Urumqi. The main habitat in the IBA is dry grassland.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Falco cherrug* (EN), *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* (VU), *Aquila clanga* (VU), *Aquila heliaca* (VU), *Falco naumanni* (VU), *Otis tarda* (VU), *Chlamydotis undulata* (VU)

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Historical records of *Camelus ferus* and *Saiga tatarica*, but they are now locally extinct. Other nationally protected animals include *Equus hemionus* and *Gazella subgutturosa*.

IBA CODE: CN103

NAME: Barkol Lake and grassland

CRITERIA: A1 A3 A4i

AREA: About 98,000 ha

COORDINATES: 43°35'N 92°45'E

ALTITUDE: 1,585-4,021 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Unprotected

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located on the northern slope of the Tian Shan mountains, 110 km north-west of Hami City and 420 east of Urumqi. Barkol Lake is a salt lake with an area of 140 km² which is surrounded by marshes and grassland, and there are coniferous forests in the southern part of the IBA. The IBA is a breeding and staging area for birds, and the lake is important for foraging waterbirds.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Falco cherrug* (EN), *Aquila heliaca* (VU), *Falco naumanni* (VU), *Otis tarda* (VU)

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert

CONGREGATORY WATERBIRDS: *Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Tadorna ferruginea*, *Anas platyrhynchos*, *Vanellus vanellus*, *Recurvirostra avosetta*, *Larus ichthyaetus*, *Larus ridibundus*

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Nationally protected species include *Equus hemionus*, *Gazella subgutturosa*, *Ovis ammon* and *Panthra uncia*.

IBA CODE: CN104

NAME: Oasis and Desert in Hami

CRITERIA: A1 A3

AREA: About 28,000 ha

COORDINATES: 42°55'N 93°30'E

ALTITUDE: 300-2,800 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Unprotected

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Hami is on the southern slopes of the Tian Shan mountains, 500 km east of Urumqi. The IBA has a hot and dry climate, and the habitats include mountains, desert, wetlands and oases.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* (VU), *Aquila heliaca* (VU), *Otis tarda* (VU)

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: There were records of *Panthera tigris*, *Ursus arctos* and *Camelus ferus* until the Qing Dynasty. Nationally protected animals that survive in the area include *Equus hemionus* and *Gazella subgutturosa*.

IBA CODE: CN105

NAME: Ayding Kol

CRITERIA: A1 A3 A4i

AREA: About 64,000 ha

COORDINATES: 42°50'N 89°5'E

ALTITUDE: -155-100 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Unprotected

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located in the southern foothills of Bogda (5,445 m), 160 km south-east from Urumqi. Ayding Kol is in the Turpan Basin, the lowest area in China and the second lowest depression in the world. The IBA is the hottest and driest area in China, and habitats include desert, oases and salt lakes.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Otis tarda* (VU)

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert

CONGREGATORY WATERBIRDS: *Grus grus* (up to 1,500 birds stop over on migration)

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Animals include *Meriones* spp., *Hemiechinus auritus* and members of the family Dipodidae.

IBA CODE: CN106

NAME: Bosten Lake

CRITERIA: A3 A4i,A4iii

AREA: About 190,000 ha

COORDINATES: 42°0'N 87°0'E

ALTITUDE: 1,048-1,100 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Unprotected

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located 60 km east north-east of Korla City and 200 km south of Urumqi. Bosten Lake is the largest freshwater lake in China, with an area of 1,001 km². The Karaxahar (Kaidu) River flows into the lake. There are extensive reedbeds and marshes around the lake, and it is an important breeding and staging site for birds.

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert

THREATENED SPECIES: *Pelecanus crispus* (VU) was recorded in the 1950s

CONGREGATORY WATERBIRDS: *Podiceps cristatus*, *Phalacrocorax carbo* (several tens of thousands on migration), *Casmerodius albus*, *Cygnus cygnus*, *Anser anser*, *Anas*

platyrhynchos, *Netta rufina*, *Aythya fuligula*, *Charadrius alexandrinus*, *Calidris temminckii*, *Larus ichthyaetus*, *Larus ridibundus* (over 20,000 birds in 1998), *Sterna hirundo*
IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: There were historical records of *Panthera tigris*, but it is now locally extinct. Other animals include *Vulpes vulpes* and *Sus scrofa*.

IBA CODE: CN107

NAME: Lower reaches of Tarim River

CRITERIA: A1 A2 A3 A4i

AREA: About 750,000 ha

COORDINATES: 40°30'N 87°30'E

ALTITUDE: 780-960 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Unprotected

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located 100 km south-east of Korla and 300 km south of Urumqi. The Tarim is the longest inland river in China, with a length of 2,300 km. Human activities have caused the lower course of the river to dry up, and the area is suffering from desertification.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* (VU)

ENDEMIC BIRD AREAS: 127: Taklimakan Desert

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert

CONGREGATORY WATERBIRDS: *Podiceps cristatus*, *Phalacrocorax carbo* (over 10,000, with larger numbers on migration), *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Ciconia nigra*, *Netta rufina*, *Vanellus vanellus*, *Larus ridibundus*

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: There were historical records of *Panthera tigris*, but it is now locally extinct. Other animals include *Vulpes vulpes*, *Camelus bactrianus*, *Cervus elaphus* and *Gazella subgutturosa*. The fish *Aspiorhynchus laticeps* also occurs.

IBA CODE: CN108

NAME: Qiemo Oasis and Qarqan River

CRITERIA: A2 A3 A4i

AREA: About 85,000 ha

COORDINATES: 38°30'N 85°50'E

ALTITUDE: 1,000-1,250 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Unprotected

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located 400 km west south-west of Korla and 650 km south of Urumqi. The Qarqan River runs through the Qiemo Oasis. The vegetation of the oasis includes *Populus euphratica*, *Phragmites* spp. and *Tamarix* spp. The IBA is a staging and wintering site for migratory birds.

ENDEMIC BIRD AREAS: 127: Taklimakan Desert

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert

CONGREGATORY WATERBIRDS: *Phalacrocorax carbo* (stable population of several tens of thousands of birds), *Netta rufina*, *Larus ridibundus*

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Nationally protected animals include *Camelus bactrianus*, *Vulpes vulpes*, *Cervus elaphus* and *Gazella subgutturosa*.

IBA CODE: CN109

NAME: Ayark Kol and alpine grassland

CRITERIA: A1 A3 A4i

AREA: About 125,000 ha

COORDINATES: 37°30'N 89°30'E

ALTITUDE: 3,876-4,100 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: The IBA is inside Altun Shan Nature Reserve, which was established in 1983 and upgraded to a national nature reserve in 1985.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located 190 km south of Ruoqiang (Qarkilik) County and 750 km south of Urumqi. The IBA lies at the edge of the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau, and is a large salt lake adjacent to the Altun Shan and Kunlun Shan mountains. The area of the lake ranges from

51,000 to 65,400 ha, and it is fed by snowmelt and glaciers. The highest peak in the area is named Muztag (6,973 m). The freshwater Yixiekepati Hu lake in the eastern part of the IBA has extensive marshes, and is an important area for both wildlife and people.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Falco cherrug* (EN), *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* (VU), *Grus nigricollis* (VU)

BIOMES: AS05: Eurasian high montane

CONGREGATORY WATERBIRDS: *Larus brunnicephalus* (5,000 birds in 1988)

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Forty-nine mammal species have been recorded in the area, including *Canis lupus*, *Vulpes vulpes*, *Panthera uncia*, *Ursus arctos*, *Equus kiang*, *Ovis ammon*, *Marmota himalayana*, *Pantholops hodgsoni*, and *Bos mutus*.

IBA CODE: CN110

NAME: Aqqik Kol and alpine grassland

CRITERIA: A1 A3

AREA: About 62,000 ha

COORDINATES: 37°5'N 88°25'E

ALTITUDE: 4,250 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Established as a nature reserve in 1983, and upgraded to a national nature reserve in 1985.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Aqqik Kol is a large high-altitude salt lake with an area of 36,000-38,000 ha, which is located between the Kunlun Shan and Altun Shan mountains. The lake is fed by snowmelt and glaciers, and there are freshwater streams and marshes in the vicinity.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Falco cherrug* (EN), *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* (VU), *Grus nigricollis* (VU)

BIOMES: AS05: Eurasian high montane

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Nationally protected animals include *Canis lupus*, *Vulpes vulpes*, *Panthera uncia*, *Ursus arctos*, *Equus kiang*, *Ovis ammon*, *Marmota himalayana*, *Pantholops hodgsoni*, and *Bos mutus*.

IBA CODE: CN111

NAME: Jingyu Hu

CRITERIA: A1 A3

AREA: About 27,000 ha

COORDINATES: 36°20'N 89°25'E

ALTITUDE: 4,800-5,300 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: The IBA is inside Altun Shan Nature Reserve, which was established in 1983 and upgraded to a national nature reserve in 1985.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Jingyu Hu lake is located where Xinjiang borders Tibet and Qinghai. It is a high-altitude salt lake with an area of 17,000 ha. The lake is fed by snowmelt and glaciers, and the main habitats in the IBA are grassland, marshy meadow, barren rock and salt pans.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Falco cherrug* (EN), *Grus nigricollis* (VU)

BIOMES: AS05: Eurasian high montane

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Twenty-two mammal species recorded in the area, including *Vulpes vulpes*, *Panthera uncia*, *Ursus arctos*, *Equus kiang*, *Ovis ammon*, *Marmota himalayana*, *Pantholops hodgsoni*, and *Bos mutus*. This area is probably a breeding ground of *P. hodgsoni*, with over 1,000 seen in 1988.

IBA CODE: CN112

NAME: Ebi Nur and Kuytun River

CRITERIA: A1 A4i,A4iii

AREA: About 120,000 ha

COORDINATES: 44°53'N 82°55'E

ALTITUDE: 195-300 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: The IBA overlaps with a nature reserve of 267,085 ha, which was established at the provincial level in 2000, and upgraded to a national nature reserve in 2007.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Ebi Nur is located in the northern part of the Tian Shan mountains, at the south-western tip of Junggar Basin, 30 km north of Jinghe County, 40 km east of Bole (Bortala) City and 400 km west of Urumqi. There are three rivers flowing into this isolated salt lake. It is the second largest lake in Xinjiang but also quite shallow, with an average depth of 2-3 m, meaning that drought or irrigation could damage the ecosystem and the lake might dry up (like Lop Nor). The IBA is an important stop-over site for migratory birds, and the reedbeds and marshes in the south are important breeding habitats for birds.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Oxyura leucocephala* (EN), *Chlamydotis undulata* (VU)

CONGREGATORY WATERBIRDS: *Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Cygnus olor*, *Anser anser*, *Anser fabalis*, *Tadorna ferruginea*, *Tadorna tadorna*, *Anas platyrhynchos*, *Pluvialis fulva*, *Vanellus vanellus*, *Calidris temminckii*, *Recurvirostra avosetta*, *Larus ridibundus*

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: 385 species of arid-zone plants have been recorded in the area, and 117 species of animals including 41 nationally protected species (categories one and two).

IBA CODE: CN113

NAME: Kunes forest

CRITERIA: A1 A3

AREA: About 54,000 ha

COORDINATES: 43°15'N 84°30'E

ALTITUDE: 1,100-4,100 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: The IBA overlaps with the provincial-level Kunes Grassland Nature Reserve (16,400 ha).

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located on the upper Ili River in the central part of the Tian Shan mountains, 280 km south south-east of Yining City and 250 km south south-west of Urumqi. The Kunes River flows through the IBA, which is relatively moist with an annual rainfall of 751.4-955.6 mm. The IBA is a breeding and staging area for birds.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* (VU), *Aquila clanga* (VU), *Aquila heliaca* (VU), *Falco naumanni* (VU), *Columba eversmanni* (VU)

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Nationally protected animals include *Panthera uncia*, *Ursus arctos*, *Vulpes vulpes*, *Ovis ammon*, *Cervus elaphus* and *Sus scrofa*.

IBA CODE: CN114

NAME: Bayanbulak and Kaidu River Valley

CRITERIA: A1 A4i,A4iii

AREA: 136,894 ha

COORDINATES: 42°45'N 84°20'E

ALTITUDE: 2,300-2,800 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: The IBA overlaps with a nature reserve which was established in 1980 and upgraded to Xinjiang Bayanbulak Swan National Nature Reserve in 1987.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located in the Urdus Basin, in the central Tian Shan, 200 km north-west of Korla and 290 km south-west of Urumqi. This IBA lies within the second largest grassland region in China, with a total area of 23,835 km². The Kaidu River flows through the IBA and has formed a large area of high-altitude marshland (at 2,300-2,500 m). The IBA is a breeding and staging area for birds.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Falco cherrug* (EN), *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* (VU), *Aquila heliaca* (VU)

CONGREGATORY WATERBIRDS: *Podiceps cristatus* (more than 2,000 birds breed annually), *Podiceps auritus*, *Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Casmerodius albus*, *Ciconia nigra*, *Cygnus cygnus* (3,000 birds recorded breeding in 1992), *Anser anser*, *Anser indicus*, *Tadorna ferruginea*, *Netta rufina*, *Grus virgo* (800 birds recorded breeding in 1988), *Grus grus* (1,000 birds

recorded breeding in 1992), *Fulica atra*, *Limosa limosa*, *Tringa tetanus*, *Calidris temminckii*, *Larus ridibundus*

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Nationally protected animals include *Felis manul*, *Vulpes vulpes*, *Panthera uncia*, *Cervus elaphus*, *Capra ibex*, *Ovis ammon* and *Ursus arctos*.

IBA CODE: CN115

NAME: Tarim Euphrates Poplar Forest Nature Reserve

CRITERIA: A1 A2 A3 A4i,A4iii

AREA: 387,900 ha

COORDINATES: 41°10'N 84°50'E

ALTITUDE: 900-950 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Established as a provincial-level nature reserve in 1983.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located 120 km south-west of Korla and 325 km south south-west of Urumqi. The Tarim River is the largest inland river in China, and the *Populus euphratica* forests along its banks form a green corridor in the desert. However, the intensive cultivation and development of its upper course in the Aksu area has caused water shortages and pollution, and affected the breeding and migratory birds.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* (VU)

ENDEMIC BIRD AREAS: 127: Taklimakan Desert

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert

CONGREGATORY WATERBIRDS: *Podiceps cristatus*, *Podiceps nigricollis*, *Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Casmerodius albus*, *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Ciconia nigra*, *Anas platyrhynchos*

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Historical record of *Panthera tigris*, but it is now locally extinct. Other animals include *Vulpes vulpes*, *Camelus bactrianus*, *Cervus elaphus* and *Gazella subgutturosa*.

IBA CODE: CN116

NAME: Sayram Nur

CRITERIA: A1 A3 A4i

AREA: About 62,000 ha

COORDINATES: 44°40'N 81°10'E

ALTITUDE: 2,072-3,000 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Unprotected

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located in the western part of the Tian Shan mountains, 80 km south-west of Bole City and 520 km west of Urumqi. Sayram Nur lake is an isolated basin formed by the geological folding of the Tian Shan mountains. The lake area extends 29.5 km from east to west and 23.4 km from north to south, and has an area of 457 km² and altitude of 2,072 m. The IBA is a breeding and staging site for birds.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Oxyura leucocephala* (EN), *Aquila clanga* (VU), *Aquila heliaca* (VU), *Falco naumanni* (VU), *Otis tarda* (VU, 30 birds in the 1930s)

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert

CONGREGATORY WATERBIRDS: *Podiceps nigricollis*, *Aythya fuligula*, *Bucephala clangula*, *Mergus merganser*, *Larus ichthyaetus*

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Nationally protected animals include *Ursus arctos*, *Vulpes vulpes*, *Cervus elaphus*, *Ovis ammon* and *Sus scrofa*.

IBA CODE: CN117

NAME: Qapqal grassland and wetland

CRITERIA: A1 A3

AREA: About 75,000 ha

COORDINATES: 43°50'N 81°0'E

ALTITUDE: 550-1,100 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Unprotected

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located on the middle course of the Ili River, 70 km south-west of Yining City and 530 km west of Urumqi, with the western part of the IBA adjacent to Kazakhstan. The complex topography includes ridges and river valleys. The IBA is a breeding and staging site for birds.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Falco cherrug* (EN), *Aythya baeri* (VU), *Aquila clanga* (VU), *Aquila heliaca* (VU), *Otis tarda* (VU, 90-120 birds estimated in 1996), *Columba eversmanni* (VU)

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Nationally protected animals include *Panthra uncia*, *Ursus arctos*, *Vulpes vulpes*, *Cervus elaphus* and *Sus scrofa*.

IBA CODE: CN118

NAME: Ili River basin

CRITERIA: A1 A3

AREA: About 36,000 ha

COORDINATES: 43°35'N 82°0'E

ALTITUDE: 680-1,100 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: The IBA includes the provincial-level Yining Ash Nature Reserve (400 ha) which was established in 1983.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located on the upper Ili River, at the confluence of the Kunes River and Tekes River, 70 km south south-east of Yining City and 450 km south south-west of Urumqi. The Kunes River flows through the IBA and joins the Ili River. The IBA is an important breeding and staging site for birds.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Falco cherrug* (EN), *Aythya baeri* (VU), *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* (VU), *Aquila clanga* (VU), *Aquila heliaca* (VU), *Falco naumanni* (VU), *Otis tarda* (VU), *Columba eversmanni* (VU)

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Animals include *Vulpes vulpes*, *Sus scrofa* and *Cervus elaphus*.

IBA CODE: CN119

NAME: Gongliu spruce forest

CRITERIA: A1 A3

AREA: About 38,000 ha

COORDINATES: 43°15'N 82°45'E

ALTITUDE: 1,300-4,000 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: The IBA includes the provincial-level Gongliu Forest Nature Reserve (28,000 ha), which was established during 1983-1985.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located on the north-east side of Hantengri Feng (6,995 m), in the Tekes River region, 150 km south-east of Yining City and 400 km south south-west of Urumqi. The IBA is a breeding ground for upland bird species.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Aquila clanga* (VU), *Aquila heliaca* (VU), *Otis tarda* (VU), *Columba eversmanni* (VU)

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Animals include *Panthra uncia*, *Ursus arctos*, *Vulpes vulpes*, *Cervus elaphus*, *Ovis ammon* and *Sus scrofa*.

IBA CODE: CN120

NAME: Xayar forest and wetland

CRITERIA: A1 A2 A3 A4i

AREA: About 280,000 ha

COORDINATES: 41°0'N 83°5'E

ALTITUDE: 940-1,000 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Unprotected

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located between Aksu and Korla cities, 80 km south of Kuqa, 250 km east of Aksu and 500 km south-west of Urumqi. The IBA is surrounded by high

mountains which range from 4,000-8,000 m. The Tarim River is the longest inland river in China, but human activities have already depleted the water resources in its lower course, including at Lop Nur which was once the largest lake in Xinjiang.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* (VU)

ENDEMIC BIRD AREAS: 127: Taklimakan Desert

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert

CONGREGATORY WATERBIRDS: *Podiceps nigricollis*, *Phalacrocorax carbo* (over 10,000 on migration), *Ciconia nigra* (110 birds in 1989), *Larus ridibundus*

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: There were records of *Panthera tigris* before the 1950s, but it is now locally extinct. Other animals include *Vulpes vulpes*, *Camelus bactrianus*, *Cervus elaphus* and *Gazella subgutturosa*. The area also support the fish *Pelochelys bibroni*, but it is almost extinct there.

IBA CODE: CN121

NAME: Mount Tuomuer Nature Reserve

CRITERIA: A1 A3

AREA: 237,600 ha

COORDINATES: 42°0'N 80°30'E

ALTITUDE: 2,000-7,435 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Established as Tuomuer Feng Nature Reserve (100,000 ha) in 1980, and upgraded to a national nature reserve in 2003.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located in the central part of the Tian Shan mountains, 90 km north of Aksu City and 600 km south south-west of Urumqi. The IBA has 15 mountains above 6,000 m and 509 glacier, including Mount Tuomuer (7,435 m) and Hantengri Feng (6,995 m), which are the highest and second highest mountains in the Tian Shan. The IBA is a breeding and staging site for birds.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Aquila clanga* (VU), *Aquila heliaca* (VU), *Otis tarda* (VU)

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert; AS05: Eurasian high montane

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Animals include *Canis lupus*, *Panthera uncia*, *Ursus arctos*, *Vulpes vulpes*, *Cervus elaphus*, *Ovis ammon* and *Sus scrofa*.

IBA CODE: CN122

NAME: Aksu River basin

CRITERIA: A1 A2 A3 A4i,A4iii

AREA: About 290,000 ha

COORDINATES: 40°16'N 80°54'E

ALTITUDE: 1,000-1,050 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Unprotected

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located 70 km east south-east of Aksu City and 700 km south-west of Urumqi. The IBA has rich water resources, including the Aksu and Tarim rivers and many reservoirs. However, rapid human population growth has depleted the water resources and affected the breeding and staging areas of birds.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* (VU)

ENDEMIC BIRD AREAS: 127: Taklimakan Desert

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert

CONGREGATORY WATERBIRDS: *Podiceps cristatus*, *Phalacrocorax carbo* (over 10,000, higher numbers on migration), *Casmerodius albus*, *Ciconia nigra*, *Anas platyrhynchos*, *Netta rufina*, *Larus ridibundus*, *Sterna hirundo*

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: There were historical records of *Panthera tigris* 1950s, but it is now locally extinct. Other animals include *Vulpes vulpes*, *Camelus bactrianus* and *Cervus elaphus*. There area also supports the fish *Pelochelys bibroni*.

IBA CODE: CN123
NAME: Bachu Oasis
CRITERIA: A2 A3 A4i,A4iii
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 Xiaohaizhi 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*.

IBA CODE: CN124
NAME: Xekar Reservoir
CRITERIA: A1 A2 A3
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*.

IBA CODE: CN125
NAME: Ulugqat grassland and wetland
CRITERIA: A1 A3
AREA: About 85,000 ha
COORDINATES: 39°50'N 74°20'E
ALTITUDE: 2,000-3,500 m
CONSERVATION STATUS: Unprotected
GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Ulugqat is a frontier area located at the western margin of China, adjacent to Kirghizstan, Uzbekistan and Tadzhikistan, 150 km west north-west of Kashi (Kaxgar) City and 1,250 km south-west of Urumqi. The IBA is on upper Kaxgar River.
THREATENED SPECIES: *Falco cherrug* (EN), *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* (VU), *Otis tarda* (VU)
BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert
IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Animals include *Canis lupus*, *Vulpes vulpes*, *Ovis ammon* and *Capra ibex*.

IBA CODE: CN126
NAME: Bulungkol grassland and wetland
CRITERIA: A1 A3
AREA: About 25,000 ha
COORDINATES: 38°45'N 74°55'E
ALTITUDE: 3,100-4,500 m
CONSERVATION STATUS: Unprotected

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located at the western tip of Xinjiang, adjacent to Tadjikistan, Kirghizstan and Afghanistan, 120 km south-west of Kashi (Kaxgar) City. Taxkorgan Alpine Animal Nature Reserve lies to the south. The IBA is on the upper Gez River, and is a breeding, summering and staging site for birds.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Falco cherrug* (EN), *Saxicola insignis* (VU)

BIOMES: AS05: Eurasian high montane

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Animals include *Ursus arctos*, *Panthra uncia*, *Canis lupus*, *Vulpes vulpes*, *Ovis ammon* and *Capra ibex*.

IBA CODE: CN127

NAME: Markit-Yarkant Oasis

CRITERIA: A1 A2 A3 A4i

AREA: About 240,000 ha

COORDINATES: 38°40'N 77°30'E

ALTITUDE: 1,150-1,250 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Unprotected

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located 160 km south-east of Kashi (Kaxgar) City and 1,050 km south-west of Urumqi. The IBA is on the lower Yarkant River, in a densely-populated agricultural area.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* (VU), *Otis tarda* (VU), *Columba eversmanni* (VU)

ENDEMIC BIRD AREAS: 127: Taklimakan Desert

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert

CONGREGATORY WATERBIRDS: *Phalacrocorax carbo* (over 20,000 birds on migration), *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Ciconia nigra*, *Larus ridibundus*

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

IBA CODE: CN128

NAME: Pishan Oasis

CRITERIA: A2 A3

AREA: About 30,000 ha

COORDINATES: 37°30'N 78°10'E

ALTITUDE: 1,300-1,950 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Unprotected

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located on the northern slopes of the Kunlun Mountains, 160 km north north-west of Hotan City and 1,050 km south-west of Urumqi. The ancient silk road passed through this area. The only known specimen of the Data Deficient *Caprimulgus centralasicus* in the world was collected in this area in 1929.

ENDEMIC BIRD AREAS: 127: Taklimakan Desert

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert

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

IBA CODE: CN129

NAME: Hotan Oasis

CRITERIA: A1 A2 A3 A4i

AREA: About 280,000 ha

COORDINATES: 37°35'N 80°0'E

ALTITUDE: 1,200-2,000 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Unprotected

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located 30-50 km north of Hotan City and 1,000 km south-west of Urumqi. The Karakax and Yurungkax rivers flow through the oasis, and join at the Hotan River to flow northward into the Taklimakan Desert. The IBA is an important passage area for birds.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* (VU)

ENDEMIC BIRD AREAS: 127: Taklimakan Desert

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert

CONGREGATORY WATERBIRDS: *Phalacrocorax carbo* (over 10,000 birds on migration), *Netta rufina*, *Larus ridibundus*

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Historical record of *Panthera tigris*, but it is now locally extinct. Other animals include *Vulpes vulpes*, *Gazella subgutturosa*, *Euchoreutes naso* and *Dipus sagitta*.

IBA CODE: CN130

NAME: Aksayqin Hu and alpine grassland

CRITERIA: A1 A2 A3

AREA: 495,200 ha

COORDINATES: 35°22'N 79°56'E

ALTITUDE: 4,963-6,000 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Unprotected

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located at the north-western tip of the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau, near to the Chinese borders with India and Pakistan. Aksayqin Hu is a large salt lake between the Kunlun Shan and Karakorum Shan mountains, with an area of 10,500 ha, which is fed by snowmelt and glaciers. The habitats in the IBA include grassland and salt desert around the lake shores.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Falco cherrug* (EN), *Grus nigricollis* (VU)

ENDEMIC BIRD AREAS: s076: Southern Xinjiang mountains

BIOMES: AS05: Eurasian high montane

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Animals include *Canis lupus*, *Vulpes vulpes*, *Panthera uncia*, *Pantholops hodgsoni*, *Ursus arctos*, *Marmota himalayana*, *Ovis ammon*, *Equus kiang* and *Bos mutus*.