

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

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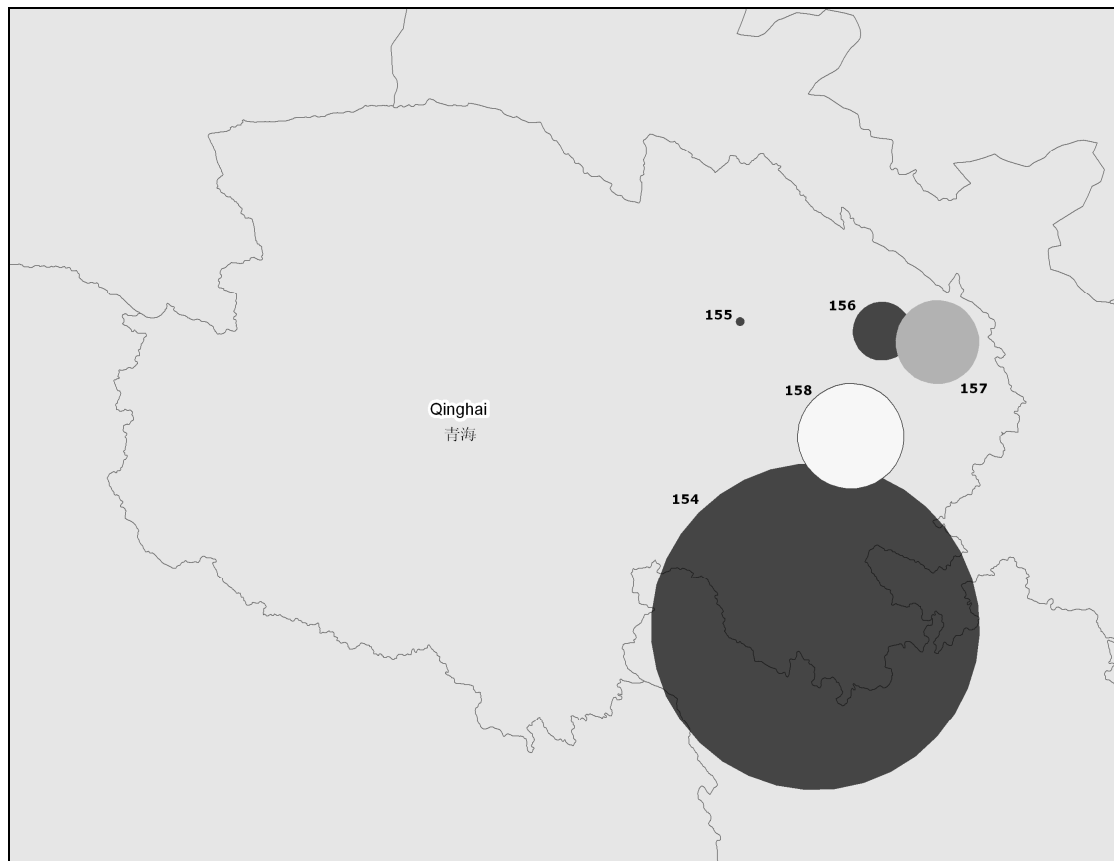
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Important Bird Areas in Qinghai Province



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

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



Sanjiangyuan Nature Reserve (CN154) is the origin of three of the great rivers of Asia, the Yellow River, the Yangtze River and upper Mekong River (which is named the Lancang River). (PHOTO: CHEN LIANG)

IBA CODE: CN154

NAME: Sanjiangyuan Nature Reserve

CRITERIA: A1 A2 A3 A4i,A4iii

AREA: 15,230,000 ha

COORDINATES: 33°22'N 100°6'E

ALTITUDE: 3,168-5,338 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Sanjiangyuan National Nature Reserve (15,230,000 ha) was established in 2000. It includes Longbaotan National Nature Reserve (10,000 ha) which was established in 1987, mainly for the protection of *Grus nigricollis* and its breeding habitat. Ngoring Hu (Eling Lake) and Gyaring Hu (Zhaling Lake), which lie inside the IBA, were designated in 2004 as 'Wetlands of International Importance' (or Ramsar sites) under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Sanjiangyuan means the origin of three rivers, namely the Yangtze, Yellow and Lancang (Mekong) rivers. It is a very large, high-altitude nature reserve that neighbours Sichuan Province and Tibet Autonomous Region. The natural habitats range from montane forest in the lower eastern part of the reserve to cold alpine grassland and desert in the higher western part of the reserve. Longbaotan National Nature Reserve includes montane wetlands comprising lakes and marshes, and is a breeding area of *Grus nigricollis* and used by other waterbirds during the migration seasons.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* (VU), *Aquila clanga* (VU), *Aquila heliaca* (VU), *Lophophorus lhuysii* (VU), *Grus nigricollis* (VU, 92 birds recorded in Longbaotan National Nature during a 1997 breeding season survey), *Perisoreus internigrans* (VU)

ENDEMIC BIRD AREAS: 135: Qinghai mountains; 138: West Sichuan mountains; s078: Northern Qinghai-Tibetan plateau

BIOMES: AS05: Eurasian high montane; AS07: Sino-Himalayan temperate forest

CONGREGATORY WATERBIRDS: *Grus nigricollis*

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: A total of 2,238 species of vascular plants have been identified in the area, including many with high herbal medicine values. Protected mammal species including Tibetan Antelope, Wild Yak, Kiang (Tibetan Wild Ass), Snow Leopard, Leopard, Brown Bear, Marco Polo's Sheep, Musk Deer and Giant Salamander.

IBA CODE: CN155

NAME: Qaidam Ulan

CRITERIA: A2 A3

AREA: About 11,000 ha

COORDINATES: 37°0'N 98°40'E

ALTITUDE: 300 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Established as Qaidam *Haloxylon ammodendron* Forest Nature Reserve (466,800 ha) in 2002.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located on the eastern edge of the Qaidam Basin, east of Ulan County. Qaidam is an important marshland-desert basin, with scattered large lakes.

ENDEMIC BIRD AREAS: 135: Qinghai mountains

BIOMES: AS07: Sino-Himalayan temperate forest

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: This area supports *Ursus arctos*, *Felis lynx*, *Gazella subgutturosa* and *Ovis ammon*, but their populations have been greatly reduced since the 1970s.



The grasslands at Qaidam Ulan (CN155). (PHOTO: ZHONG JIA)

IBA CODE: CN156

NAME: Qinghai Hu (Koko Nor)

CRITERIA: A1 A2 A3 A4i,A4iii

AREA: 495,200 ha

COORDINATES: 37°0'N 100°50'E

ALTITUDE: 3,190-3,200 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Established as a nature reserve in 1975, and upgraded to Qinghai Hu National Nature Reserve in 1997. Part of this IBA was designated in 1992 (under the name 'Niaodao [Bird Island]') as a 'Wetland of International Importance' (or Ramsar site) under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The islands in the lake are used by breeding birds, and are designated as restricted areas.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Qinghai Hu is the largest saline lake in China. The five islands in the lake provided breeding habitats for waterbirds. More than 50 freshwater streams and marshes around the lake are used as feeding and resting areas by birds.

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

ENDEMIC BIRD AREAS: 135: Qinghai mountains

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert; AS05: Eurasian high montane; AS07: Sino-Himalayan temperate forest

CONGREGATORY WATERBIRDS: *Phalacrocorax carbo* (20,000 birds bred during the 1960s), *Anser indicus* (6,000 birds bred in 1990), *Tadorna ferruginea*, *Anas acuta*, *Anas crecca*, *Grus virgo* (2,100 birds in 1995), *Larus brunnicephalus* (up to 4,000 birds during the breeding season)

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: *Procapra przewalskii* is distributed near to the lake. The fish *Gymnocypris przewalskii* is an important fishery product from the lake.

IBA CODE: CN157

NAME: Xining

CRITERIA: A1 A2 A3

AREA: About 1,008,000 ha

COORDINATES: 36°54'N 101°41'E

ALTITUDE: 2,600-2,700 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: The IBA is partially protected in the city-level Baoku Nature Reserve and Dongxia Nature Reserve, which were established in 1984, and the provincial-level Datong Beichuan Heyuanqu Nature Reserve (198,300 ha) which was established in 2005.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located in eastern Qinghai on the lower reaches of the Huangshui He river, south of the Datong He river and east of Qinghai Hu lake (CN156). The IBA has a temperate, semi-arid alpine climate. It is a relatively populated area with agricultural and herding economies, and it is also the most industrialised part of Qinghai.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Falco cherrug* (EN)

ENDEMIC BIRD AREAS: 135: Qinghai mountains

BIOMES: AS07: Sino-Himalayan temperate forest

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: No information.

IBA CODE: CN158

NAME: Area between Qinghai Hu and A'nyêmaqên

CRITERIA: A1 A2 A3

AREA: About 1,620,000 ha

COORDINATES: 35°42'N 100°27'E

ALTITUDE: 2,700-4,568 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Unprotected

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The IBA includes four counties in the Hainan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, south of Qinghai Hu lake (CN156). It is bisected by the Yellow River and includes Longyangxia Reservoir. The main habitat is grassland but this is affected by over-grazing.

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

ENDEMIC BIRD AREAS: 135: Qinghai mountains

BIOMES: AS05: Eurasian high montane; AS07: Sino-Himalayan temperate forest

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: No information.