

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

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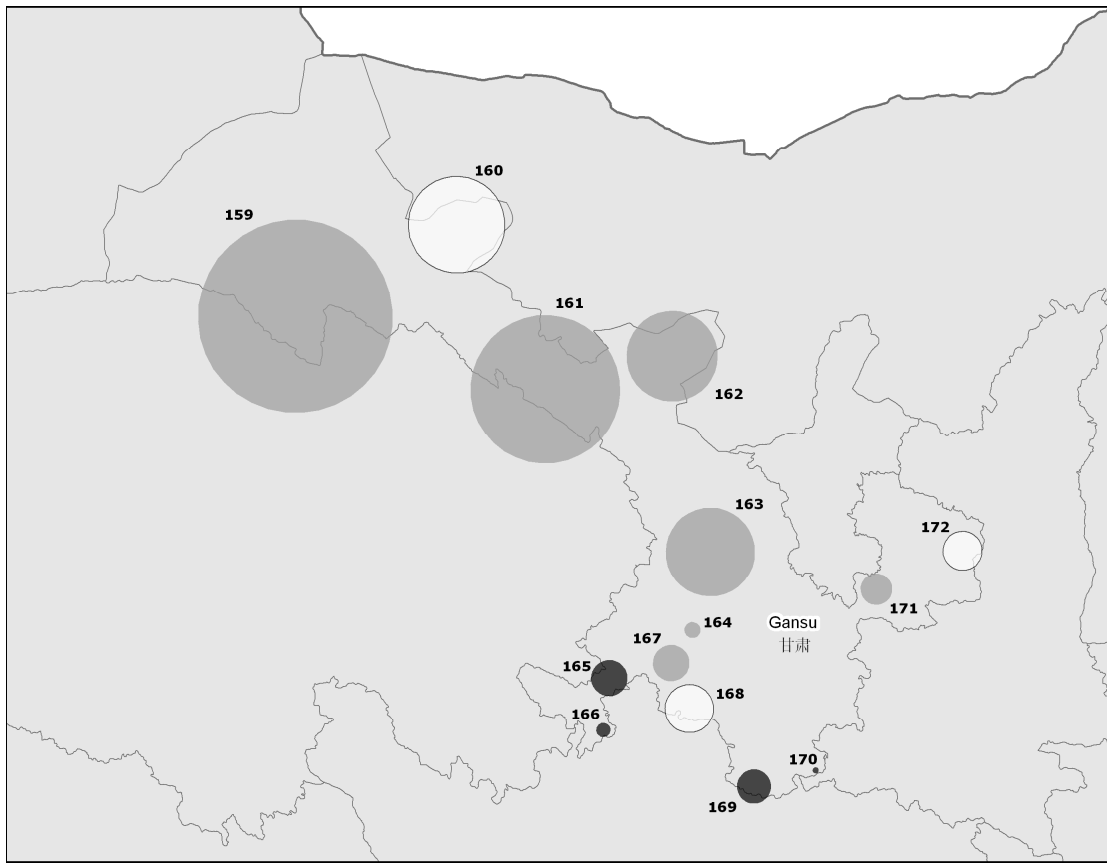
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## Important Bird Areas in Gansu Province



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

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



Huang He Shouqu Nature Reserve (CN166) is located in the Tibetan region of southern Gansu and is connected to Zoigê Marshes (CN182) in Sichuan. (PHOTO: HUA FANGYUAN)

IBA CODE: CN159

NAME: Dunhuang Nature Reserve and Western Qilian Shan mountains

CRITERIA: A1 A2 A3 A4iii

AREA: About 7,280,000 ha

COORDINATES: 39°0'N 96°25'E

ALTITUDE: 1,100-5,798 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Three provincial-level nature reserves, Subei Yanchiwan, Dunhuang Wanyaodun and Aksay Annanba were established in 1982, which were merged with the Mazong Shan area to form the large Dunhuang Nature Reserve in 2000. Anxi Nature Reserve was established at the provincial level in 1987 and upgraded to a national nature reserve in 1992. Other protected areas in the IBA include Yanchiwan Nature Reserve (424,800 ha) which was established at the provincial level in 1987, the provincial-level Da Sungan Hu Nature Reserve (9,640 ha) and Xiao Sungan Hu Nature Reserve (2,400 ha).

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located in the western part of Gansu Province, adjacent to Qinghai Province. The climate of this mountainous IBA is temperate semi-arid, and the habitats range from steppe to semi-desert, but there are also grasslands, scrub and broadleaf forests. The human population is low and mostly relies on herding, with agricultural activities in a few areas. The Qilian Shan and Mazong Shan mountains are important pathways for migratory birds.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Aythya baeri* (VU), *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* (VU, numbers have declined since the 1980s, now rare), *Aquila heliaca* (VU), *Falco naumanni* (VU), *Grus nigricollis* (VU, 5-6 birds at both Da Sungan Hu and Xiao Sungan Hu in 1997), *Larus relictus* (VU, specimen collected at Sungan Hu in November 1985, but needs further verification)

ENDEMIC BIRD AREAS: 135: Qinghai mountains

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

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Many protected mammals are found in this nature reserve, such as Snow Leopard, Lynx, Mongolian Wild Ass, Tibetan Wild Ass, Wild Camel etc.



The Dunhuang Nature Reserve and Western Qilian Shan Mountains IBA (CN159) is important for both birds and large mammals. (PHOTO: ZHONG JIA)

IBA CODE: CN160

NAME: Jinta

CRITERIA: A1 A3 A4iii

AREA: About 1,800,000 ha

COORDINATES: 40°30'N 99°12'E

ALTITUDE: 1,000-1,924 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Unprotected

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located in north-west Gansu, bordering Inner Mongolia in the north and the east. Habitats include steppe and desert, and 5% of the IBA is wetlands which are fed by the Hei He river. Many reservoirs have been constructed, forming a chain that extends for c.130 km. More than 20,000 waterbirds were found on migration during a survey in 1988.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Otis tarda* (VU, bred along the river in the 1950s and 1960s but extinct since the 1970s), *Columba eversmanni* (VU, specimen collected in 1984 when flocks of 4-6 birds could be found)

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: No information.

IBA CODE: CN161

NAME: Eastern Qilian Shan mountains

CRITERIA: A1 A2 A3

AREA: About 4,284,000 ha

COORDINATES: 38°15'N 101°0'E

ALTITUDE: 2,250-4,850 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Part if the IBA is protected in the Qilian Shan Nature Reserve (2,653,023 ha), which was established at the provincial level in 1987 and upgraded to a national nature reserve in 1988.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located in north-western Gansu. The mountains of the IBA define the border between the Qinghai-Tibetan plateau and the Mongol-Xinjiang Plateau. About 70% of the IBA is grassland and the rest is mainly agricultural land and coniferous forest.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* (VU), *Aquila heliaca* (VU), *Grus nigricollis* (VU), *Columba eversmanni* (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.

IBA CODE: CN162

NAME: Minqin

CRITERIA: A1 A3

AREA: About 1,600,000 ha

COORDINATES: 38°47'N 103°15'E

ALTITUDE: 1,100-1,950 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: The IBA is partially protected in Liangucheng National Nature Reserve (389,883 ha), which was established in 1982.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located in northern Gansu, with the border of Inner Mongolia to the north. The IBA is generally flat, and the Shijun He river flows through it. The main habitats are desert and steppe. Several reservoirs (Ximahu, Zihu, Hongya) have been constructed along the river, and there are also several saline wetlands along the river.

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

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: The Liangucheng reserve was established for the conservation of Mongolian Gazelle.



IBA CODE: CN163

NAME: Loess Plateau in western Gansu

CRITERIA: A1 A2 A3

AREA: 1,509,624 ha

COORDINATES: 36°2'N 103°59'E

ALTITUDE: 1,300-3,400 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: The IBA is partially protected in the provincial-level Huanghe Sanxia Nature Reserve (19,500 ha) in Yongjing County which was established in 1995, Xinglongshan Nature Reserve (33,301 ha) in Yuzhong County which was established at the provincial-level in 1985 and upgraded to a national nature reserve in 1988, and the city-level Zhulingou Nature Reserve 6,306 ha) which was established in 1985.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located in central Gansu near the capital city of Lanzhou. The Yellow River flows through the centre of the IBA, which has a typical Loess Plateau landscape of river gullies and eroded mountains. Liujiaxia Reservoir was constructed inside the IBA, and much of the area is agricultural land.

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

ENDEMIC BIRD AREAS: 135: Qinghai mountains

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

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: No information.

IBA CODE: CN164

NAME: Lianhua Shan

CRITERIA: A1 A2 A3

AREA: 48,384 ha

COORDINATES: 34°56'N 103°42'E

ALTITUDE: 1,750-3,810 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: The IBA is partially protected in a provincial-level nature reserve which was established in 1983 and has subsequently been upgraded to a national nature reserve (11,691 ha).

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located in southern Kangle and northern Lintan. The IBA has a mountainous terrain with coniferous and mixed coniferous-broadleaf forests, and some grassland and agricultural lands. A mountain lake (Changye Chi) in the north of the IBA attracts c.30 species of migratory waterbirds.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Garrulax sukatschewi* (VU)

ENDEMIC BIRD AREAS: 137: Central Sichuan mountains

BIOMES: AS07: Sino-Himalayan temperate forest

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: No information.

IBA CODE: CN165

NAME: Ganligahai-Zecha Nature Reserve

CRITERIA: A1 A2 A3 A4i,A4iii

AREA: 247,431 ha

COORDINATES: 34°14'N 102°19'E

ALTITUDE: 2,900-3,450 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Designated as a provincial-level nature reserve (34,000 ha) in 1982, and upgraded to a national nature reserve (247,431 ha) in 1997.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located in Luqu County, with the border of Sichuan Province to the south. Ga Hai is a highland lake with c.5 km<sup>2</sup> of open water area and an average depth of 2-3 m, which is fed by mountain streams and precipitation. The outflow from the lake is the Tao He river. The area has a sparse human population and animal husbandry is the main activity. Over-grazing has caused problems of desertification.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Grus nigricollis* (VU, 80-82 estimated in July 1996), *Perisoreus internigrans* (VU)

ENDEMIC BIRD AREAS: 137: Central Sichuan mountains; 138: West Sichuan mountains

BIOMES: AS05: Eurasian high montane; AS07: Sino-Himalayan temperate forest  
CONGREGATORY WATERBIRDS: *Tringa totanus* (the total population of this species is estimated to be over 20,000 birds at Ga Hai alone), *Grus nigricollis*  
IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: No information.

IBA CODE: CN166

NAME: Huang He Shouqu Nature Reserve

CRITERIA: A1 A3 A4iii

AREA: 37,500 ha

COORDINATES: 33°30'N 102°15'E

ALTITUDE: 3,450 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Established as a provincial-level nature reserve (37,500 ha) in 1992.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located south of Maqu County and adjacent to the Zoige (Ruo'ergai) marshes in Sichuan to the east. The main habitats in the IBA are grassland and wetland, with flooded marshland where the Yellow River flows through the east of the site. The area is sparsely populated, mainly by Tibetan herders.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* (VU), *Grus nigricollis* (VU, at least 60 birds estimated)

BIOMES: AS05: Eurasian high montane

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: No information.

IBA CODE: CN167

NAME: Jonê

CRITERIA: A1 A2 A3

AREA: About 250,000 ha

COORDINATES: 34°28'N 103°21'E

ALTITUDE: 2,100-4,630 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: The IBA is partially protected in the provincial-level Guozhagou Nature Reserve (2,687 ha), which was established in 1982.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located in southern Jone County, Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture. The main habitat in the IBA is grassland, with some forest and agricultural land.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Aquila heliaca* (VU), *Garrulax sukatschewi* (VU), *Paradoxornis przewalskii* (VU), *Perisoreus internigrans* (VU)

ENDEMIC BIRD AREAS: 137: Central Sichuan mountains; 138: West Sichuan mountains

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

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: No information.

IBA CODE: CN168

NAME: Min Shan mountains

CRITERIA: A1 A2 A3

AREA: About 440,000 ha

COORDINATES: 33°50'N 103°40'E

ALTITUDE: 1,200-4,504 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Unprotected

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located in the northern part of the Min Shan mountain range, in south-western Zhugqu county and southern Tewo county. The Bailong Jiang river forms the northern border to the site and it borders Sichuan in the south. The typical landscape of the IBA is high mountains and deep valleys.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Lophophorus lhuysii* (VU), *Garrulax sukatschewi* (VU), *Paradoxornis przewalskii* (VU), *Perisoreus internigrans* (VU)

ENDEMIC BIRD AREAS: 137: Central Sichuan mountains; 138: West Sichuan mountains

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

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: No information.

IBA CODE: CN169

NAME: Baishui Jiang Nature Reserve

CRITERIA: A1 A2 A3

AREA: 213,750 ha

COORDINATES: 32°46'N 104°45'E

ALTITUDE: 1,500-3,100 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Established as a national nature reserve in 1963. Baishui Jiang was designated in 2000 as a 'Biosphere Reserve' under UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located in southern Wenxian County, bordering Sichuan in the south. The IBA mainly comprises high mountains with temperate coniferous and coniferous-broadleaf mixed forests, scrub and grassland. It has a very low human population and agricultural land covers less than 10% of its area. An ornithological survey was conducted by Lanzhou University in 1974-1975, a scientific study was conducted in 1992-1995 with the support of the Ministry of Forestry (State Forestry Administration) and the State Forestry Administration sponsored a study on the feeding behaviour of the Giant Panda in 1998.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* (VU), *Lophophorus lhuysii* (VU), *Garrulax sukatschewi* (VU)

ENDEMIC BIRD AREAS: 137: Central Sichuan mountains; 138: West Sichuan mountains

BIOMES: AS07: Sino-Himalayan temperate forest

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: The area supports 28 nationally protected bird species and 28 nationally protected mammal species.

IBA CODE: CN170

NAME: Longshengou Nature Reserve

CRITERIA: A1 A3

AREA: 6,667 ha

COORDINATES: 32°59'N 105°46'E

ALTITUDE: 610-1,200 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Established as a county-level nature reserve in 1986.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located in southern Kangxian County, bordering Shaanxi Province. The IBA has a landscape of low mountains, with half of the area covered by temperate montane broadleaf deciduous forests and the rest of the site mostly scrub and agricultural land. The North-west Normal University conducted bird surveys in the 1960s and 1970s, and from 1993-1995 Lanzhou University had a project to study Reeve's Pheasant at this site.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Syrnaticus reevesii* (VU, the only site in Gansu Province, population estimated at 110 birds in 1992-1995)

BIOMES: AS08: Sino-Himalayan subtropical forest

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: No information.

IBA CODE: CN171

NAME: Pingliang

CRITERIA: A1 A3

AREA: About 190,000 ha

COORDINATES: 35°30'N 106°50'E

ALTITUDE: 1,300-2,200 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: The IBA includes Taitong-Kongdongshan Nature Reserve (1,089 ha), which was established in 1982 and upgraded to a national nature reserve (16,283 ha) in 2005.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located on the eastern Loess Plateau, bordering Ningxia in the west and north. The Jing He river flows through the centre of the IBA. In the 1950s large flocks of *Otis tarda* occurred on migration, but they have been extinct here since the 1970s.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Falco naumanni* (VU)

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: No information.



IBA CODE: CN172

NAME: Heshui

CRITERIA: A1 A3

AREA: About 290,000 ha

COORDINATES: 36°0'N 108°20'E

ALTITUDE: 1,200-1,650 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Unprotected

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located in eastern Gansu, on the border with Shaanxi Province. Heshui is in the Ziwu Ling mountains and has a relatively high human population. The main habitats in the IBA are montane broadleaf deciduous forest, secondary scrub, grassland and agricultural land.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* (VU)

BIOMES: AS04: Eurasian steppe and desert

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: No information.