

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

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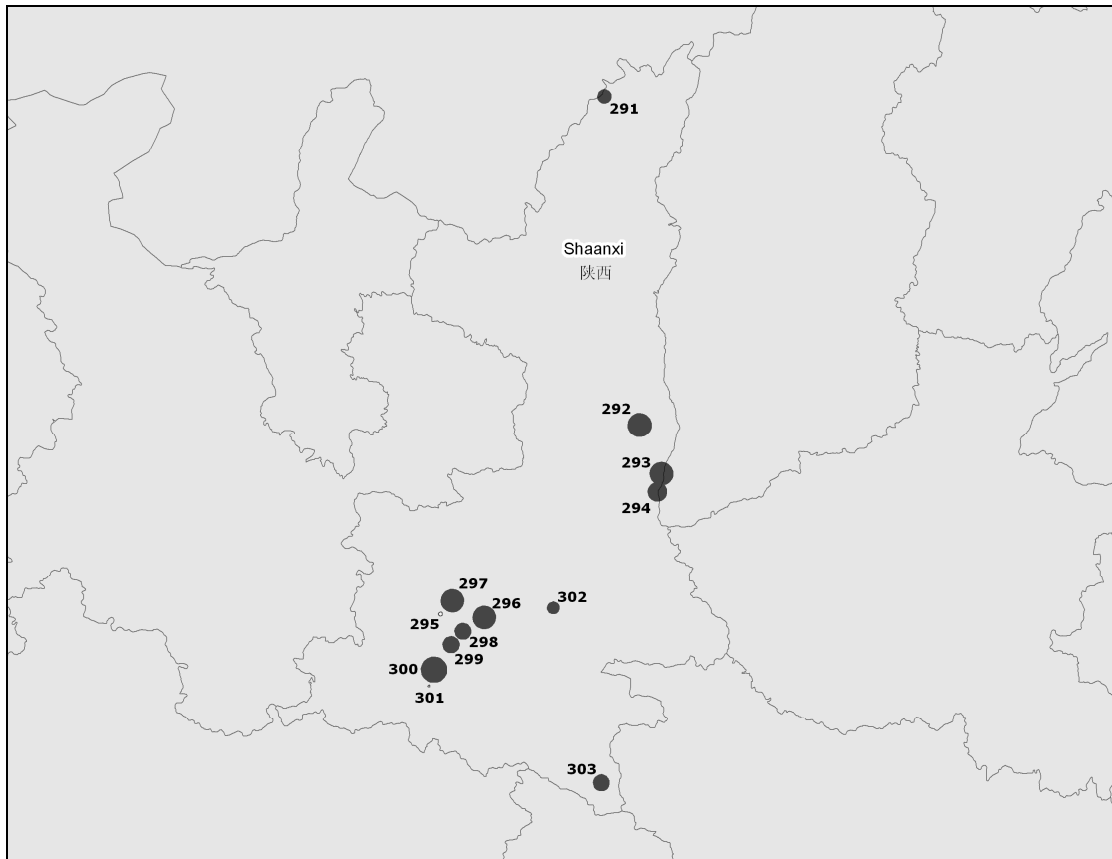
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## Important Bird Areas in Shaanxi Province



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

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



Yang Xian (CN300) supports the only wild population of Asian Crested Ibis *Nipponia nippon* in the world, and careful protection there has allowed their numbers to increase from 7 individuals in 1981 to several hundreds, meaning that the species is likely to avoid extinction. (PHOTO: DING CHANGQING)

IBA CODE: CN291

NAME: Hongjian Nur

CRITERIA: A1 A4i

AREA: About 21,700 ha

COORDINATES: 39°5'N 109°55'E

ALTITUDE: No information.

CONSERVATION STATUS: Established as the county-level Hongjian Nur Nature Reserve in 1996.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located in northern Shenmu County. Hongjian Nur is the largest lake in this desert region. The IBA has little human activity, and large number of wintering and breeding waterbirds.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Larus relictus* (VU, present since 2005, probably originated from the Ordos breeding population in CN082), historical records of *Pelecanus crispus* (VU) and *Otis tarda* (VU) but the recent status of these two species in the IBA is unknown

CONGREGATORY WATERBIRDS: *Cygnus cygnus*, *Mergus merganser*, *Grus grus*, *Larus relictus*

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: No information.

IBA CODE: CN292

NAME: Huanglong Shan Brown Eared-pheasant Nature Reserve

CRITERIA: A1 A2 A3

AREA: 60,439 ha

COORDINATES: 35°40'N 110°6'E

ALTITUDE: 800-1,700 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Established as a provincial-level nature reserve in 1998.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located in the south-eastern part of Yan'an City, adjacent to the Loess Plateau of northern Shaanxi Province. The main habitats in the IBA are temperate montane broadleaf-coniferous mixed forest and scrub.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Crossoptilon mantchuricum* (population discovered in the IBA in March 1998)

ENDEMIC BIRD AREAS: 136: Shanxi mountains

BIOMES: AS07: Sino-Himalayan temperate forest

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: No information.

IBA CODE: CN293

NAME: Heyang Huang He Wetlands Nature Reserve

CRITERIA: A1 A4i

AREA: 57,348 ha

COORDINATES: 35°9'N 110°20'E

ALTITUDE: 0-380 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: The IBA is a provincial-level nature reserve, which was established in 1996 but lacks staff and management infrastructure.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The IBA extends c.40 km from north to south and comprises mudflats in the Huang He (Yellow River) in Heyang County. The Huang He river channel is becoming wider in this region, because of reduced flow rate and increased sedimentation. This has resulted in the extensive growth of reedbeds in the area, which are favourable breeding habitats for waterbirds.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Ciconia boyciana* (EN), *Grus japonensis* (EN, over 100 in 1995, no subsequent information), *Aquila heliaca* (VU), *Otis tarda* (VU, 25 birds in March 1995)

CONGREGATORY WATERBIRDS: *Casmerodius albus* (300 birds in January 1999), *Cygnus cygnus* (500 birds in January 1999), *Mergus merganser* (300 birds in January 1999), *Grus grus* (80 and 300 birds in January and March 1999 respectively)

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: No information.

IBA CODE: CN294  
NAME: Weinan Sanhe wetlands  
CRITERIA: A1 A4i  
AREA: 39,375 ha  
COORDINATES: 34°58'N 110°16'E  
ALTITUDE: 330-378 m  
CONSERVATION STATUS: Established as the city-level Sanhe Wetlands Nature Reserve in 1995.  
GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located at the confluences of the Huang He, Wei He and Luo He rivers. Following the construction of Sanmenxia Dam, siltation increased greatly in the area, which has resulted in the development of shallow water areas, marshes, beaches and meadows. Many waterbirds winter in the area.  
THREATENED SPECIES: *Grus japonensis* (EN, over 40 birds in February 1995, status needs further investigation), *Anas formosa* (VU, seen in 1980, no recent data), *Otis tarda* (VU, over 30 birds in 1997)  
CONGREGATORY WATERBIRDS: *Grus grus* (111 birds in January 2000)  
IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: No information.

IBA CODE: CN295  
NAME: Erlangba  
CRITERIA: A1 A3  
AREA: 1,600 ha  
COORDINATES: 33°49'N 107°31'E  
ALTITUDE: 1,000-2,700 m  
CONSERVATION STATUS: Not officially protected. There is a plan to establish Taibei County Huangbaiyuan Nature Reserve in 2010, with an area of 37,000 ha.  
GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located adjacent to the Qinling mountains. The main habitats in the IBA are temperate montane broadleaf-coniferous mixed forest and coniferous forest (c.60%), and there is also some scrub and agricultural land.  
THREATENED SPECIES: *Syrnaticus reevesii* (VU, population of up to 138 birds estimated in 1984, with records until 1995)  
BIOMES: AS07: Sino-Himalayan temperate forest; AS08: Sino-Himalayan subtropical forest  
IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: No information.

IBA CODE: CN296  
NAME: Zhouzhi Nature Reserve  
CRITERIA: A1 A3  
AREA: 56,393 ha  
COORDINATES: 33°46'N 108°3'E  
ALTITUDE: 980-2,996 m  
CONSERVATION STATUS: The IBA is inside a national nature reserve (56,393 ha), which was established in 1988.  
GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located on the upper Hei He river, and an important water resource for Xi'an City. The IBA is in the forests on the northern slopes of the central Qinling mountains, and it includes four protection stations.  
THREATENED SPECIES: *Syrnaticus reevesii* (VU, recorded at Banfangzi Station before the 1970s, no recent information)  
BIOMES: AS07: Sino-Himalayan temperate forest; AS08: Sino-Himalayan subtropical forest  
IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: This nature reserve was established for the protection of Giant Panda and Snub-nosed Langur (Golden Monkey).

IBA CODE: CN297  
NAME: Taibai Shan Nature Reserve  
CRITERIA: A1 A2 A3  
AREA: 56,235 ha

COORDINATES: 33°57'N 107°40'E

ALTITUDE: 720-3,700 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Established as a nature reserve in 1965, and upgraded to a national nature reserve in 1986.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The IBA is located in the central Qinling mountains. It is one of the longest-established nature reserves in China, and is a major tourist attraction.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Luscinia ruficeps* (VU), *Luscinia obscura* (VU)

ENDEMIC BIRD AREAS: 137: Central Sichuan mountains

BIOMES: AS07: Sino-Himalayan temperate forest; AS08: Sino-Himalayan subtropical forest

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: No information.

IBA CODE: CN298

NAME: Foping Nature Reserve

CRITERIA: A1 A3

AREA: 29,240 ha

COORDINATES: 33°38'N 107°47'E

ALTITUDE: 900-2,800 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Established as a nature reserve (29,240 ha) in 1979, and upgraded to a national nature reserve in 1986. Foping was designated in 2004 as a 'Biosphere Reserve' under UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located on the southern slopes of the Qinling mountains, the IBA includes four protection stations and the adjacent areas. The main habitats are temperate montane broadleaf deciduous forest, broadleaf-coniferous mixed forest, evergreen forest and scrub, and less than 10% of the IBA is agricultural land.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Syrmaticus reevesii* (VU)

BIOMES: AS07: Sino-Himalayan temperate forest; AS08: Sino-Himalayan subtropical forest

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Giant Panda and Takin found in the reserve.



Foping (CN298) is a Giant Panda *Ailuropoda melanoleuca* reserve in the Qinling mountain range, which protects the temperate forest ecosystem. (PHOTO: CHEN LIANG)

IBA CODE: CN299

NAME: Changqing Nature Reserve

CRITERIA: A1 A3

AREA: 29,906 ha

COORDINATES: 33°30'N 107°38'E

ALTITUDE: 800-3,071 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Established as a national nature reserve in 1995.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located in Yang Xian county, on the southern slopes of the central Qinling mountains. The IBA has primary and secondary forests, and despite the heavy disturbance to the forest it has retained its biodiversity. The nature reserve was established to protect Giant Panda and its habitats, and there has been a GEF site management project since 1997.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Syrmaticus reevesii* (VU)

BIOMES: AS07: Sino-Himalayan temperate forest; AS08: Sino-Himalayan subtropical forest

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: No information.

IBA CODE: CN300

NAME: Yang Xian and neighbouring area

CRITERIA: A1 A3 A4i

AREA: About 70,000 ha

COORDINATES: 33°15'N 107°25'E

ALTITUDE: 450-1,190 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: The provincial-level Yang Xian Crested Ibis Conservation Station was established in 1988 (it was previously the county-level Crested Ibis Conservation and Protection Station, established in 1981), which covered the entire range of Crested Ibis until 2000.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The IBA includes the Crested Ibis breeding area in Yang Xian, the night-time roost at Caoba, and the loafing areas. The breeding area of Crested Ibis is located in the north-western part of Yang Xian (about 28,000 ha), with up to 16 nesting sites. The birds will pair up and build nests in January, and depart to the loafing area in June. The night-time roost at Caoba (14 ha) is less than 1 km from the Crested Ibis captive-breeding centre, and is the only known night-time roost of the species. The autumn population can be up to 51 birds. The captive-breeding centre will attract wild Crested Ibis from time to time, which is a possible reason of the location of the night time roost. A pair bred in this area in 1996 and 1997, raised three and two birds respectively. The loafing area of Crested Ibis (about 40,000 ha) extends 25 km from east to west, and 20 km from north to south., and there are intensive agricultural activities within the area; Crested Ibis frequent this area in summer and autumn, and subadult birds remain there in winter and spring.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Nipponia nippon* (EN), *Syrmaticus reevesii* (VU)

BIOMES: AS08: Sino-Himalayan subtropical forest

CONGREGATORY WATERBIRDS: *Nipponia nippon* (almost the entire wild population of the species)

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: No information.

IBA CODE: CN301

NAME: Erlinggou

CRITERIA: A1 A3 A4i

AREA: 440 ha

COORDINATES: 33°5'N 107°21'E

ALTITUDE: 580 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Unprotected

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located in the western section of the Daiba Shan mountains, on the northern slope of the Micang Shan mountains, 15 km south of Chenggu Town. The egretty in the IBA is located in the valley between the two mountain ranges. Over 70% of the area is broadleaf-coniferous mixed forest, with little human activity.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Syrnaticus reevesii* (VU, recorded in 1990)  
BIOMES: AS08: Sino-Himalayan subtropical forest  
CONGREGATORY WATERBIRDS: *Egretta garzetta*, *Nycticorax nycticorax*  
IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: No information.

IBA CODE: CN302

NAME: Niubeiliang Nature Reserve

CRITERIA: A1 A3

AREA: 16,418 ha

COORDINATES: 33°50'N 108°54'E

ALTITUDE: 1,300-2,802 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Established as a nature reserve in 1987, and upgraded to a national nature reserve in 1988. The core area of the reserve is located above 1,800 m, and has an area of 7,239 ha.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located in the eastern section of the Qinling mountains, extending across Chang'an, Zhashui and Ningshan counties. The nature reserve was mainly established to protect Takin. Over 80% of the IBA is temperate montane mixed broadleaf-coniferous forest, and this area is an important water source for Xi'an City. It is c.60 km from the other nature reserves in the Qinling mountains.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Syrnaticus reevesii* (VU)

BIOMES: AS07: Sino-Himalayan temperate forest; AS08: Sino-Himalayan subtropical forest

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: About 25 nationally protected species occur here including Leopard, Golden Cat and Takin.

IBA CODE: CN303

NAME: Hualong Shan Nature Reserve

CRITERIA: A1 A3

AREA: 28,103 ha

COORDINATES: 32°2'N 109°22'E

ALTITUDE: 894-2,917 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Established as a provincial-level nature reserve in 2000.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located on the borders of Shaanxi, Hubei and Sichuan provinces, on the ridges of the Ba Shan mountains. The vegetation appears to be subtropical, and forest cover is over 80%.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Syrnaticus reevesii* (VU)

BIOMES: AS07: Sino-Himalayan temperate forest; AS08: Sino-Himalayan subtropical forest

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: No information.