

Story of Saker in Altay



Photo by MaMing

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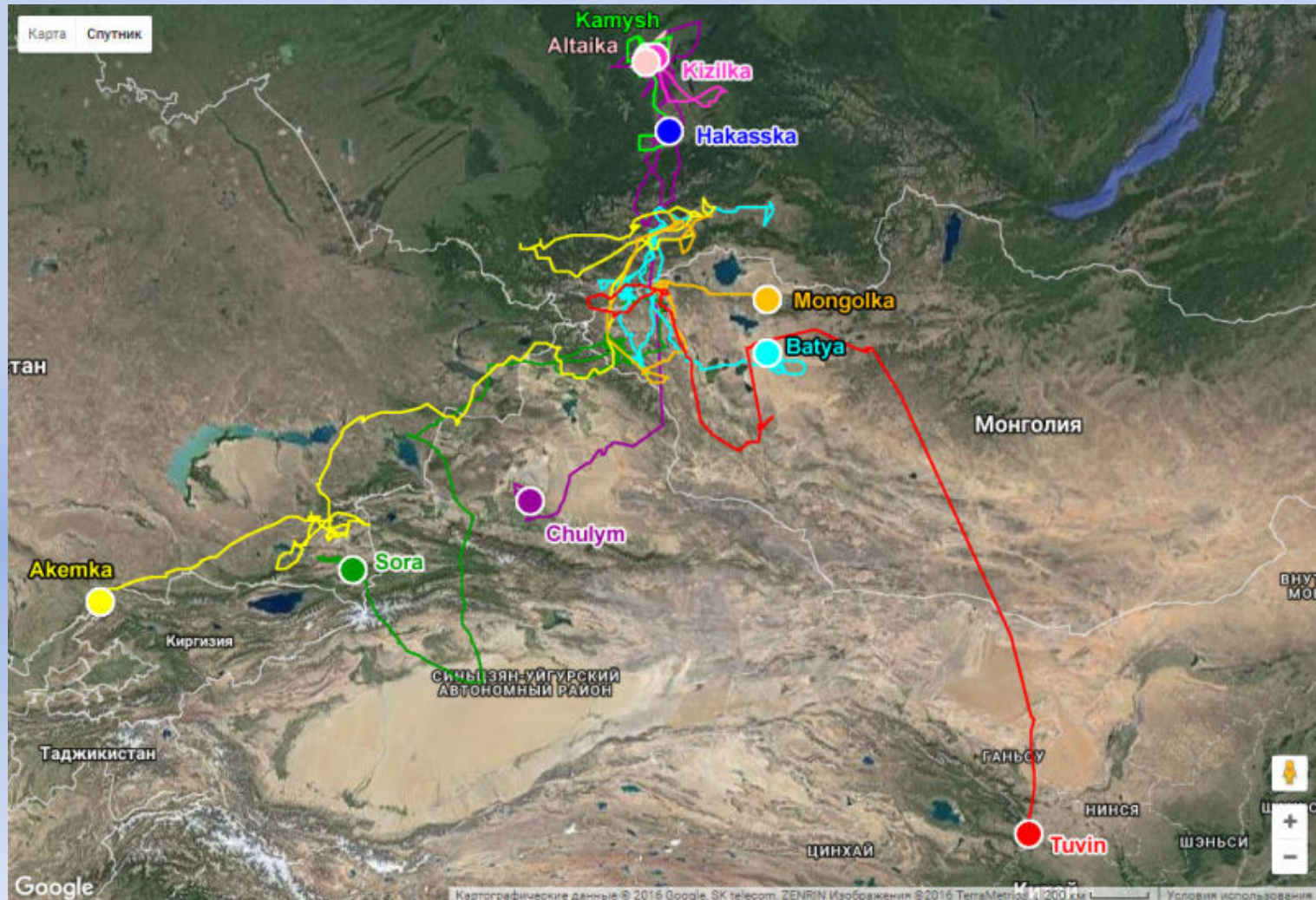
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Three Populations in China



- Migrating or Passing through Xinjiang (40%)
- Over-wintering in Xinjiang and Tibet (30%)
- Breeding on Altay & the Tibetan Plateau (30%)

Most of the Northern Sakers Over-Wintering in Xinjiang & Tibet



What Troubles Have Sakers Met in China?

- Legal and Illegal Trade
- Electrocution
- Killed with Poison
- Killed by Collision
- Other Reasons (such as hunger, illness, road-killed)

Legal and Illegal Trade



Photo by MaMing

Sakers with Eyes Sewn up
at the Urumqi Customs



Photo by MaMing

Legal Trade & Illegally Capture

- Between 1993 and 2016, we know there were a total of 40 recorded legal trades involving 622 saker falcons.
- During the same period, there were data indicating that over 2300 saker falcons were illegally captured and traded in 76 cases.
- Mainly exported to countries such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar in the Gulf.

Electrocution in Desert



A desert rat
Rhombomys opimus



D310的轨迹

Investigation on Raptor of Electrocution along Power Lines in the Western China

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Abstract: The electrocution survey is in the west of China, including Xinjiang, Qinghai, Sichuan, Gansu and Tibet in 2004– 2008. About 178 km 10 kV and 35 kV transmission lines including more than 1 800 electric pylons were checked. The 110 dead birds, feathers and remains were collected and identified nearby the power line. The 79 raptors of electrocution were found in 10 kV (average 1.36 dead birds/km). 11.31% pylons threatened the birds. There were 44 nests in 35 kV pylons (average 0.37 nests/km). At least 6.06% pylon was used by raptors. The 24% – 40% power accidents were caused by birds. The crux is the structure inconsequently, e.g. line exposed. About 20% raptors (11 species) are threatened by electrocution in Western China, which threatened the safe of the transmission line. The rationalization proposal was provided in this article.

Key words: Raptors; Electrocution; Power grid; Western China

Mei Yu, Ma Ming, Andrew Dixon and Hu Baowen. 2008. Investigation on Raptor of Electrocution

Power System and Transmission Networks

A photograph of a high-voltage power transmission network. The image shows several large, lattice-structured transmission towers of varying heights and designs, connected by a dense network of power lines. The towers are silhouetted against a clear, light blue sky. The foreground is a dark, flat landscape, possibly a field or a construction site, with some low-lying vegetation and a fence line visible. The overall scene conveys the scale and complexity of modern power systems.

Photo by MaMing

Electrocution in Altay



Photo by MaMing

表 1 猛禽遭电击死亡名录(2004~ 2008)

Table 1 The list of raptor by electrocution in China from 2004 to 2008

种类 Species	地点 Place				数量(只) Number	比例(%) Percentage
	青海 Qinghai	新疆 Xinjiang	四川 Sichuan	其他省区 Other province		
鸢 <i>Milvus migrans</i>	+				1	1.27
苍鹰 <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>		+		+	(2)	
棕尾 <i>Buteo rufinus</i>		+			(1)	
大 <i>B. hemilasius</i>	+		+		69	87.34
胡兀鹫 <i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	+				(1)	
猎隼 <i>Falco cherrug</i>	+				5	6.33
拟游隼 <i>F. pelegrioides</i>		+			(1)	
红脚隼 <i>F. vespertinus</i>				+	(1)	
红隼 <i>F. tinnunculus</i>	+	+			1(+ 5)	1.27
雕 <i>Bubo bubo</i>	+	+			3(+ 1)	3.80
长耳 <i>Asio otus</i>		+			(1)	
合计 Total					79	100

“+”表示有电击记录；括号内的数据来自文献。

“+” is raptor recorded in electrocution; The number of brackets is from references.

Mei Yu, Ma Ming, Andrew Dixon and Hu Baowen. 2008. Investigation on Raptor of Electrocution along Power Lines in the Western China. *Chinese Journal of Zoology*, 43 (4): 114-117.

人间黑洞

马鸣 摄

我怎么就活不下去了呢！

Saker in China

Photo by MaMing

Collision in Xinjiang



Photo by MaMing

At least two breeding centers of sakers have been established during the past twenty years in Xinjiang





A very unsuccessful breeding center

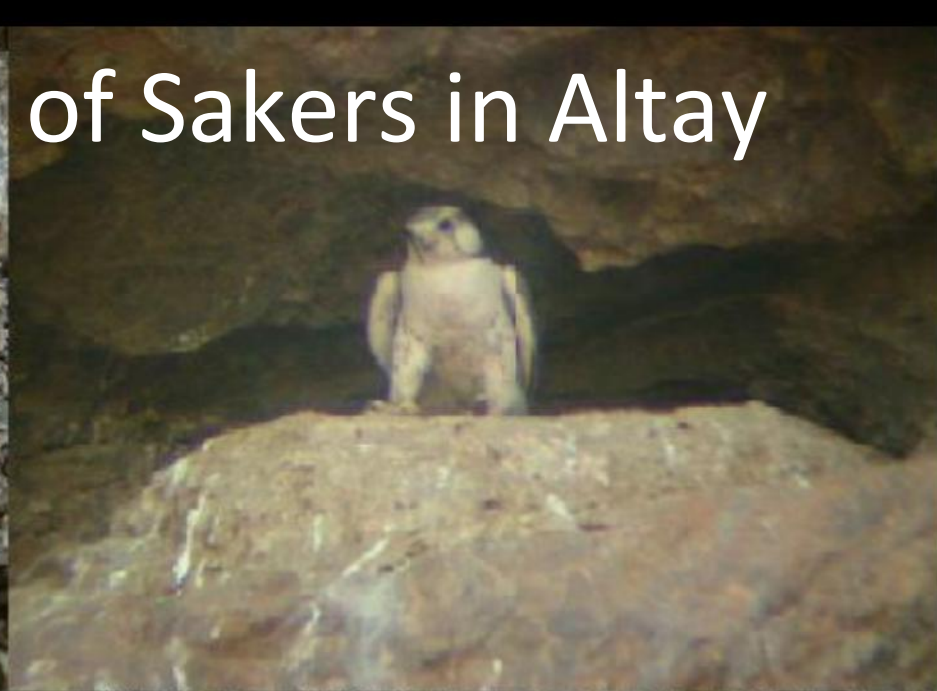
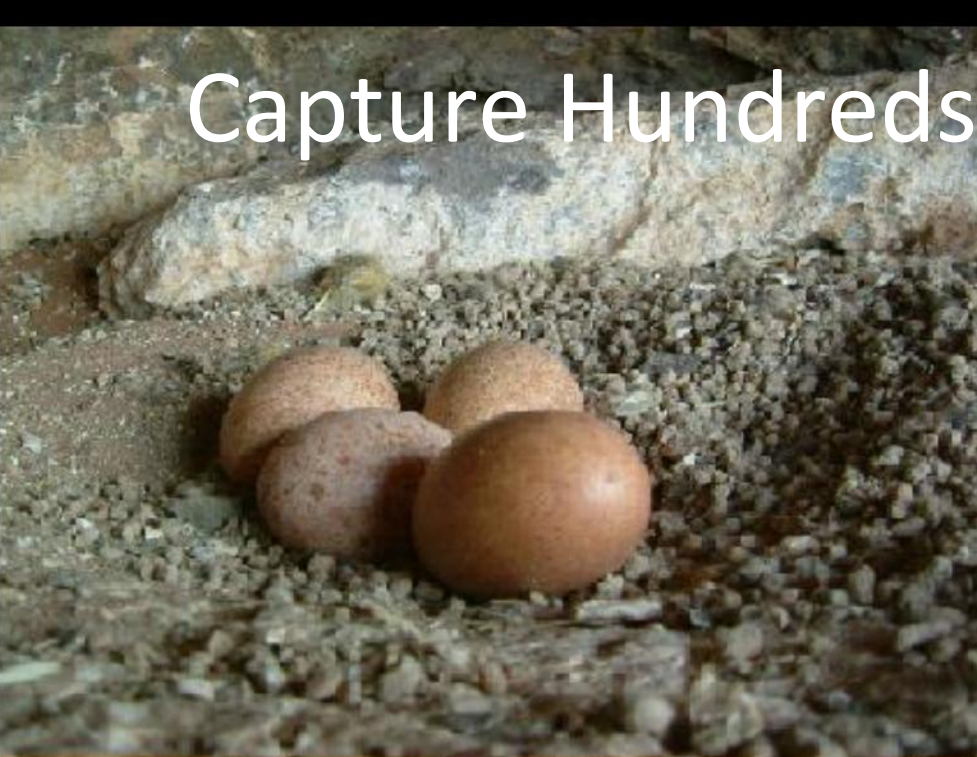
Photo by MaMing

Breeding Center of Saker in Altay



- This center has got about 100 million Yuan from Qatar.
- Now, there are about 40 sakers in the center.
- All of these sakers were captured before 2014, aged more than 10 years old.
- There used to be more than hundreds of Sakers living here, but breeding was unsuccessful.

Capture Hundreds of Sakers in Altay



Photos by MaMing

Visiting and Studying in Qatar and Morocco



A breeding center in Altay

The Saker Center has got about 100 million of Yuan from Qatar



Photos by MaMing



Sakers in Qatar



Photos by MaMing



Do you know the goals of Qatar & Saudi Arabia ?



It is to obtain more wild and young falcons from China.

Do you know the goal of Qatar ?



Several Terrifying Results

- Captured Annually
- Target for Planning 200/Year
- Both sides believe that they can gain huge benefits from Altay.
- Greed and Dreams
- But the Breeding Plan is Zero in the Center.
- Now, Leave behind a Tricky Mess.



Problems at the Falcon Center

- One reason is that there are too few management personnel, with only one person for a long time (2020-2023).
- Secondly, the mortality rate is very high and there is a lack of medical security. At least 9 individuals have died of illness in the past six months (accounting for 17 %).
- Thirdly, I couldn't find the original files and health records, and the management was extremely chaotic.
- Fourthly, during the breeding period of the past decade, most young chicks have been eaten by their parents within a week of hatching.
- Finally, the most critical issue is insufficient funding and limited food supply. If we strengthen management, the aforementioned problems (chaos) may still be solvable.

Changes in the Last Twenty Years

A photograph of a large high-voltage electrical substation. The image shows a series of lattice towers supporting power lines, stretching across a field. The towers are arranged in a line, and the power lines are visible against a hazy sky. The foreground is a field of dry, brown grass, and a fence is visible in the lower part of the image.

The protection level of Saker has been upgraded from National Level II to National Level I in 2021.

Photo by MaMing

Analysis of Missing Cases of Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*) by Satellite Tracking

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Abstract: The Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*) has been rapidly becoming endangered in the world. We analyzed the gender, signal duration, and missing month of 67 Saker Falcons tracked by satellites in the past 10 years, and their causes of death, threat factors and loss rates. We performed a more detailed analysis of the causes of death of 10 sakers from Russia and Mongolia during 2016 and 2017. Backpack method was used to fit the transmitters with the weight (17 g to 22 g) less than 3% of sakers' body weight (Fig. 1). When the transmitters no longer returned information, we went to the last locations of the GPS to search for the bodies of died birds in a certain area. We also investigated the animal traces and surrounding environment, and

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野生猎隼的命运 Saker in China



• 马鸣 摄

• 尚未出窝身先死

Photo by MaMing

Dreams and Reality

- Dream: Save the saker through artificial breeding and release of them to desert
- And plan to add hundreds of sakers to the wild every year
- Reality: We cannot compensate for various threats, such as electrocution and trade (6000 to 8000) in the Central Asia
- What can we do, only 10%



Photo by MaMing

Sakers in Tibet



Photo by Dong W X

Twenty years ago, A scientific expedition on the Tibet Plateau



Saker in Tibet



Photo by MaMing @ 2003

A Hundred Year History in China



猎隼贩子 数量巨大 走南闯北 历史悠久

Sakers in Xinjiang



Photo by MaMing

Dangerous Situation Faced by Sakers



Photo by MaMing

Saker in Tibet

(7.69% are Saker Falcons)

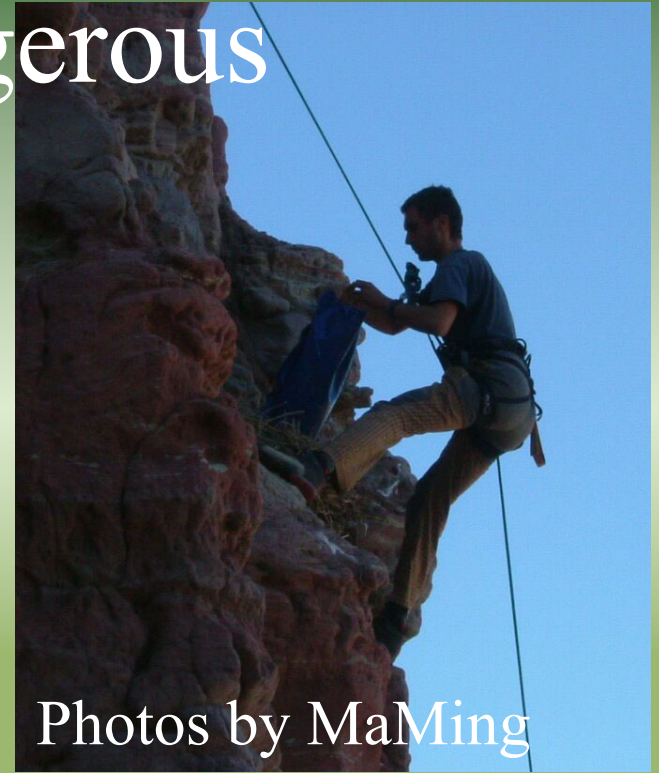


By Chang Le @ 2023

Faced with other Dangerous



Poisoning



Photos by MaMing



Mining with Cyanide



Nest Cliff Loss

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Thanks for Your Attention !



The End.