

# **The survival status of eagles in a capturing area of China**

**Roller MaMing**

Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography, Chinese Academy of Sciences,  
No. 818 Beijing Road, Urumqi, Xinjiang, China

E-mail: [maming@ms.xjb.ac.cn](mailto:maming@ms.xjb.ac.cn)

Alma-Ata, 2023-09-25

# Raptors in China



On August 3-7, 2023, we completed a rapid survey  
in Aheqi County, southern of Xinjiang

# Preface

China, with its vast land, is a country with extremely abundant raptor resources (about a hundred species) and also a major country that consumes raptors.

This means that there is a huge black hole that not only consumes its own country, but also devours migrating or over-wintering raptors from neighboring countries, such as Russia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan .....

# From 2007 & 2023 in Xinjiang, China



The golden eagle is a first-class protected species in China, and this situation is seriously illegal act in China. But, .....



# Investigation

Our recent investigation in China includes:

- The species and numbers
- Methods or tools used to capture in the field
- Whether there is trading (and how much)
- Damage to wild populations and their resources
- The current situation in the field, other negative factors
- Conflicts between laws and traditional culture (such as conflict with Intangible Cultural Heritage)
- And how to legalize and effectively manage them.

# Identification and Registration



- The name of the eagle catcher
- Verify local people ID card, including gender and birth age
- Identification of Raptor Species
- The history, including species, numbers, and methods of capture
- Capture location and time
- Age of the Golden Eagle
- How many generations have passed down in the family?
- Are there any legal procedures, such as licenses?



- Photos by MaMing



# Kyrgyzstan

## Issyk Kul

## Mt. Tianshan

+ **Aheqi**

阿克苏地区

喀什地区

# China

经度 78.25561523437501 纬度 40.89899213265715 查询

Most of the captured golden eagles are young or juvenile birds aged 1 to 4 years old (Accounting for 95%)



- Photos by MaMing



# Established the Falconry Association in Ahochi County in April 2023



- Photo by MaMing



Photo by An Minkang



# Survey and Registration Form

## 阿合奇县级驯鹰习俗传承人员名单 (老鹰) 马鸣 2023.8.4

区域	序号	姓名	性别	出生年月	猎捕时间	种类	年限	来源	鸟龄	其他备注
家访	1	苏云巴依·开买力 8.4	男	1975.3.12	2019年 5月 <sup>22</sup>	金雕	30年 第二代 第6只	南山 网捕 75km	2岁	换羽. 肥一些, 没学飞活动. 知道窝
	2	阿布都萨拉木·阿布都哈力克	男	1987.3.27	2022年9月	金雕	8年 第三代 第三只	南山 网捕 75km	1岁	第二只跑掉了 别鹰时飞走.
	3	依沙别克·斯马依勒	男	1988.12.4	2021年3月	金雕	13年 第三只	北山 捕鸟 30km	2岁	每窝2-3只, 只取一只
	4	巴哈依·马凯西 组长	男	1965.2.17	2023年3月	金雕	38年 第八只	两地放捕块 南山 30km	尾白 4岁	12月放区 5岁放区
	5	俄阿尔别克·俄罗斯木 8.6 下村	男	1981.3.11	2022年9月	金雕	15年 第三只	网2 窝1	尾暗 6岁	二代 无证 窝里2只幼 拿大的
	6	阿合马提·库尔曼巴依	男	1975.9.15	2020年7月	金雕	20年 第四只	全部 网捕 北山 8km	5岁	二代传人
	7	卡力地别克·俄罗斯木	男	1986.6.12	2023年10月 <sup>0</sup>	金雕	12年 第二只	网捕 北山 10km	4岁	三代
	8	热云别克·沙特密西	男	1986.1.20	2022年9月 <sup>23 5</sup>	金雕	10年 第二只	窝里捉 南山 75km	尾白 (幼) 4岁	5哥2子的, 邻居住 果一代
	9	哈力白·吐尔逊	男	1970.5.25	2022年8月 <sup>8</sup>	金雕	1990年开60年 第六只	网捕 南山 6km	1岁	放绳子进窝 吓出小鸟 窝里只有一只
	10	吐勒汗巴依·托合那依	男	1973.10.18	2023年9月					
阿合奇镇	11	木沙别克·阿德尔	男	1976.12.8	2020年 2019年9月 <sup>0</sup>	金雕	16岁 232年 第五只	窝里捉 网捕 北山 8km	3岁	二代 (窝里捉第一只) 许可证
	12	木尔扎·俄布热依	男	1982.12.19	2022年3月	金雕	22年 第五只	网捕 山上 30km	5岁 (尾黑)	
	13	买买提托合托·别革马提	男	1968.2.4	2019年9月	金雕	31年 第六只	捕网 幼2岁	4岁	知道窝的位置

漏: 居马巴依·吐尔逊巴依 男 1984.9.14 2019.11 金雕 15年 第五只 南山 网捕 4岁 二代传人, 之前玩隼(护边员)

退休干部 托合托木西·托合吐尔 男 1955.3.10 2021.11 金雕 40年 第九只 北山-30 窝里3岁 文革期间也有很多? 为什么漏了

五七三 漏 吾热孜木 男 1981/ 2021. 金雕 17岁开始 55年15岁 窝5只 3岁 只有一个人. 网捕10岁 > 北山.



• Photo by An Minkang



# One of the Capture Methods

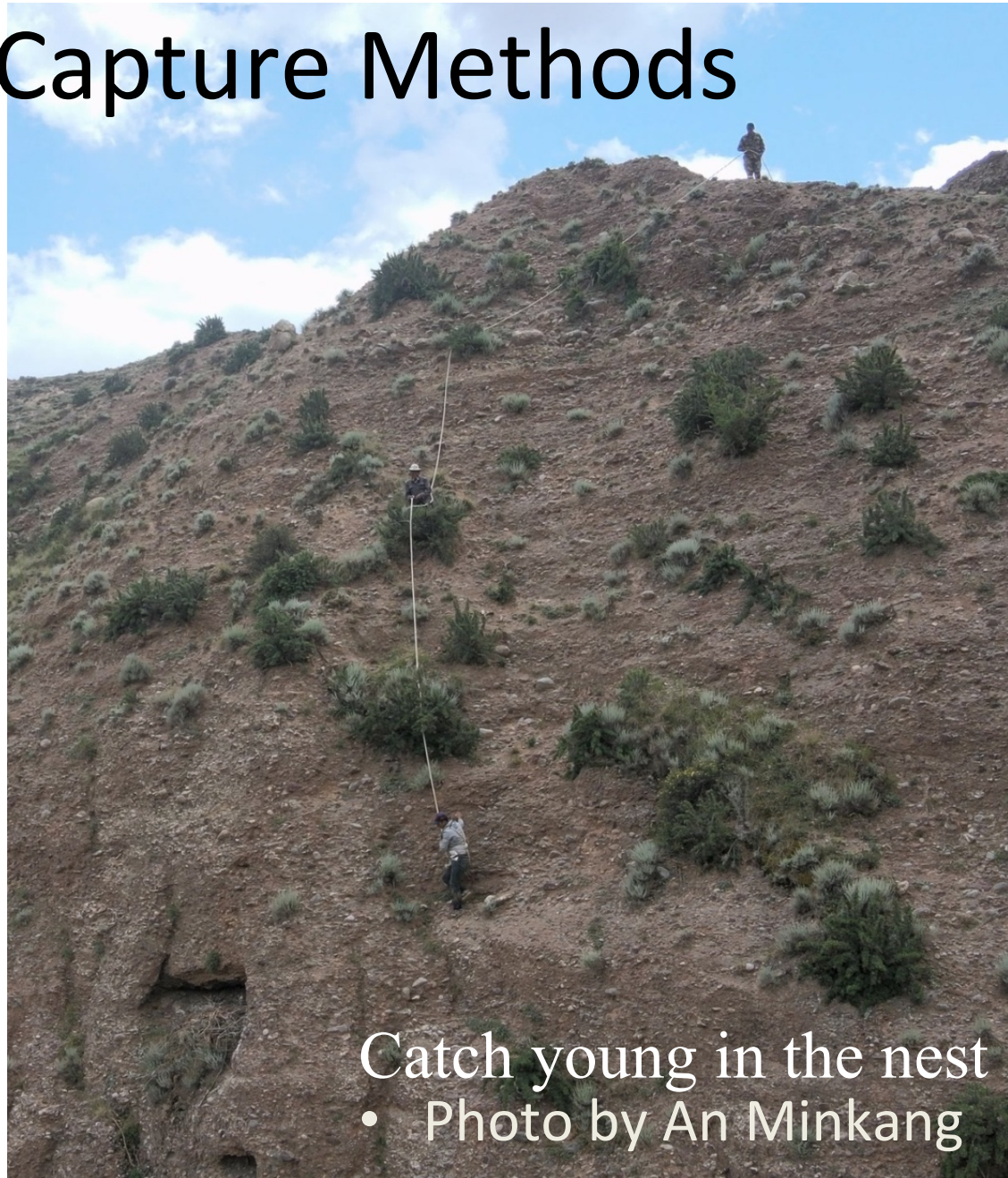


- Photo by An Minkang



# One of the Capture Methods

- Photo by MaMing



- Catch young in the nest
- Photo by An Minkang



# Eagles in China



• Photos by MaMing



# Eagles in China



Photos by MaMing



# Kazakh & Kirgiz



• Photo by MaMing





# Results (1)



- We know that the sources or origins of eagles are different.
- Some populations breed in China, while others migrate or pass through China.
- For example, in Aheqi County, a border county, we have counted 412 captured golden eagles in the past 20 years.
- At least 231 were caught with nets (56.1 %)
- And about 163 young birds were caught in their nests (39.6 %)
- And 16 were unable to fly due to winter hunger or overeating frozen foods, and 2 were caught due to mutual fights.



We know that the Golden Eagles come from different places



• Photo by MaMing



# Results (2)



- In early August 2023, a survey of eagle training showed that **Golden Eagles** accounted for 87.3 % (n=110).
- And few people domesticated the **Steppe Eagles**.
- Of course, other raptors also trained in Xinjiang
- Such as Goshawks, Sakers, Peregrines and Barbary Falcons are sometimes domesticated by local people in Xinjiang.

# Goshawks

About 11 goshawks were captured in Aheqi, accounting for 10 % (n=110).



- Photos by MaMing





# Sakers



- Photos by MaMing



# Peregrines



• Photos by MaMing



# Barbary Falcons



• Photos by MaMing









# Steppe Eagles in China

Most of them migrate and pass through Xinjiang

Some of them breed in the northern part of Xinjiang

And it has been upgraded to a National First-class Protected Species in 2021

Occasionally, someone would catch and train them in China

The threats faced by Steppe Eagles are numerous, such as poisoning, high-voltage electrocution, collision, captured, and other injuries.

MaMing R. and Zhao X. M. 2013. Distribution patterns and ecology of Steppe Eagle in China. *Raptors Conservation*, 27: 172-179.

# Migrants

- Photos by Yang Jun



November 2022



# Steppe Eagles



• Photo by Chang Dianxue



• Photos by Luo & Wu

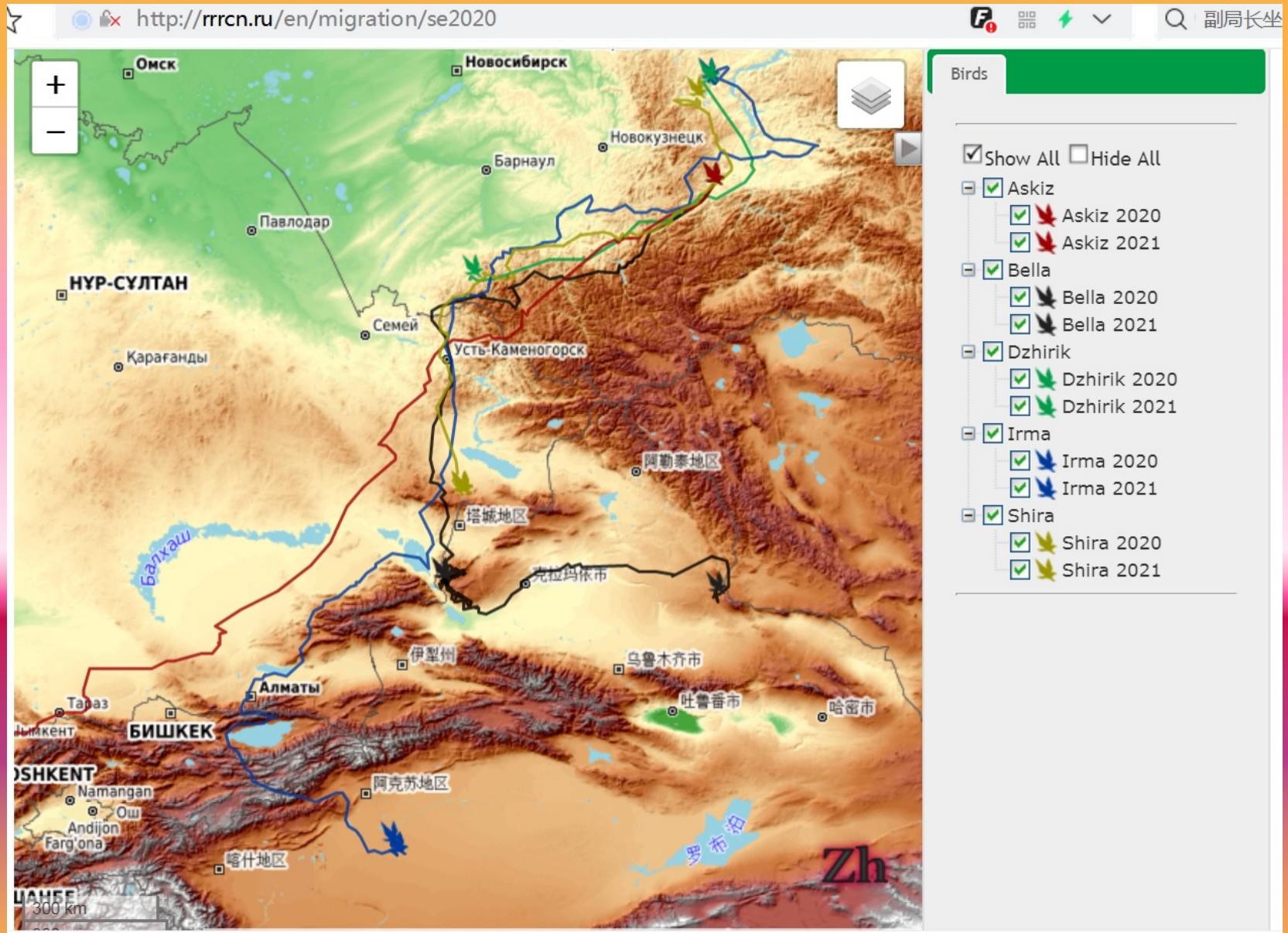


• Photo by MaMing





# Traps and a Black Hole in Xinjiang





# About 53 raptors were electrocuted on Tibetan Plateau in May and June 2023

There are at least two corpses of Steppe eagle (approximately 3.77%, n=53).

The photos by Chang Le





# Electrocution



December 2020

Photos by Xu Jie





**(a scam)**

**Missing  
and  
Swapped**

**From  
Mongolia  
to China**







Falconry Association established in 2023



# Legalization and Management

The willingness of the local government:

The policy needs for poverty alleviation and common prosperity

Resolving the Conflict between Natural Resources and Cultural Heritage

In order to legalize and effectively manage falconer, the Falconery Association was established in early 2023

In order to protect the Golden Eagles and safeguard the interests of falconers, the association's charter has been formulated

# Performances and Profit Activities



• Photo by MaMing



# A for-profit Performance in Tianshan



- Photo by Di Jie

# A for-profit Performance in Altai



• Photo by MaMing



# An investigation into nest by drone



- Photo by MaMing

# Release Test



- When is it appropriate to release?
- How much can survive after release?
- Do we need scientific management and evaluation?



# References

- Abushin A.A., Erdnenov G.I. 2021. Steppe Eagle in the Republic of Kalmykia (Russia): Results of the 2021 Survey. **Raptors Conservation**, 43: 69-107.
- Karyakin I.V., Nikolenko E.G., Shnyder E.P., *et al.* 2021. Wind power development in Eastern Kazakhstan threatens migration of eagles. **Raptors Conservation**, 43: 108-213.
- Karyakin I.V., Novikova L.M. 2006. The Steppe Eagle and power lines in Western Kazakhstan. Does coexistence have any chance? **Raptors Conservation**, 2006: 48–57.
- Ma Ming, Peng Ding, Weidong Li, *et al.* 2010. Breeding ecology and survival status of the Golden Eagle in China. **Raptors Conservation**, 19 : 75-87.
- Ma Ming, Tong Zhang, Peng Ding, *et al.* 2012. Golden Eagle in the North-Western China. **Raptors Conservation**, №25: 70-78.
- Ma Ming. 2013. Government-sponsored falconry practices, rodenticides, and land development jeopardize Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) in western China. **Journal of Raptor Research**, 47 (1):76-79.
- Ding Peng, Ma Ming, Kedeerhan Bayaheng, *et al.* 2013. Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* in Xinjiang: Nest-site selection in different reproductive areas. **Acta Ecologica Sinica** (International Journal), 33(1): 139-144.
- MaMing R. and Zhao X. M. 2013. Distribution patterns and ecology of Steppe Eagle in China. **Raptors Conservation**, 27: 172-179.
- Zhao X.M., R. MaMing, Peng D., *et al.* 2013. Chronology of physical and behavior development on the nestlings of Golden Eagle in China. **Selevinia**, 21: 113-118.
- Wu Daoning, Roller MaMing, Xu Liu *et al.* 2016. Time budget and diet of the Booted Eagles in the breeding season in Xinjiang, China. **Raptors Conservation**, 33: 46-53.
- MaMing R., Chen W., Zhong Y. 2022. New Wintering Places of the Greater Spotted Eagle in Xinjiang, China. **Raptors Conservation**, 45: 89-94.

Thank You for Your Attention !



• THE END

• Photo by MaMing