

Title: Reproductive biology of great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*) in the qinghai-tibet plateau

Author(s): [Zhang, Tong-Zuo](#); [Li, Lai-Xing](#); [Lian, Xin-Ming](#); [Cai, Zhen-Yuan](#); [Su, Jian-Ping](#) (jpsu@nuiqb.ac.cn)

Source: *Waterbirds* 30 (2) : 305-309 JUN 2007

Language: English

Abstract: There have been no detailed studies on reproductive biology of the Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*) in Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. We conducted such investigations during the breeding seasons of 1999 and 2000 in Qinghai-Lake Bird Isle, China. Great Cormorants began to migrate to Qinghai-Lake for reproduction from the middle of March and left from early October at the end of reproduction. Nesting periods were from early April to mid June and took 50 days. Egg-laying occurred during the three weeks from the end of April to 20 May. Females typically laid an egg every 1-2 days until clutch completion. Mean clutch size in the study area over two years was 3.3 (SE +/- 0.13, N = 68, range 1-5) and most (66.18%) fell within the range 3-4 eggs. Length of eggs averaged 61.01 mm and breadth averaged 34.13 mm. Fresh egg weight averaged 57.34 g (SE +/- 0.36, range 46.0-73.7 g, N = 179). Hatching success was 48.7% and fledging success was 64.9% over two years. Decline of available fish resources in Qinghai-Lake might be one of main causes of lower reproductive success. The causes of chick loss were possibly high altitude, high winds and prolonged rain.

Address: Su, Jian-Ping; Chinese Acad Sci, NW Inst Plateau Biol, Xining 810001, Peoples R China

ISSN: 1524-4695

MAJOR CONCEPTS: [Biogeography](#) (Population Studies); [Freshwater Ecology](#) (Ecology, Environmental Sciences); [Reproduction](#)

CONCEPT CODE: [07502, Ecology: environmental biology - General and methods](#); [07508, Ecology: environmental biology - Animal](#); [07514, Ecology: environmental biology - Limnology](#); [16504, Reproductive system - Physiology and biochemistry](#); [62800, Animal distribution](#)