3
4 1485
5 1484

<sup>6</sup> 2502 7 1061

pardalotum

10 Grus

viplo White-naped carne 11

Otus japonicus

Pigmy owl Glaucidium brodiei

17 188
18
19 16
20 100
21 42

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25 824
26 http://niaolei.org.cn

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89~102 

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<sup>36</sup> 215~11

## Ghost-chariot Bird

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Abstract Legends of Nine-headed Bird had been known in China since ancient time. In popular imagination, it was seen as an evil bird with nine heads upon a single body. It was commonly called Ghost-chariot Bird. This article will not explore the cultural meaning of the creature. Through analyzing various accounts, this article has concluded that the Ghost-chariot Bird is actually a species of owl. Due to its nocturnal habits, it was seldom seen in real life, only its unusual screeches had been heard. After thousands of years of sights-unseen, its description had been altered beyond recognition.

Key words Ghost-chariot Bird, Nine-headed Bird, Compendium of Materia Medica