

Travel report- Beihai, Southern China and a few days in Beijing

1-26/12 2012

During three weeks in December I had the opportunity to be in the town of Beihai in the Guangxi province to work on parts of my master thesis. Even though the main purpose was to work with that I had time to do some birdwatching and explore the areas around Beihai. I visited two areas which I thought was good and had some green parts left (Beihai is one of most fast-growing cities in the world). I didn't see any spectacular species but still very enjoyable birdwatching for being so close to the city. In total 73 bird species was seen in Beihai.

The last days of my visit in China was spent in Beijing. The first day was dedicated to birdwatching where I had the pleasure to be guided by Jesper Hornskov in Beijing's Botanical Garden and the surrounding hills. Jesper is an excellent guide and I can really recommend him if you are going to China (can be reached at [goodbirdmail\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:goodbirdmail(at)gmail.com) or mobile +8613911240659). During my three days in Beijing I saw 43 bird species.

If you have any questions feel free to ask!

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Satellite picture over Beihai with marking for the two areas I visited.

The first place I visited was Guantoling National Forest Park which is situated on the most western part of Beihai peninsula. The nature is hilly pine forest facing the ocean and deciduous forest in the areas on lower altitude. A car-road goes through the area and there are also some smaller roads only for pedestrians making the area easy accessible both by car or by foot. I got

there by a taxi for around 70 yuan and found it very easy to walk around in the area even though it got pretty crowded with people in the afternoon. The lower areas proved were good for warblers including Dusky and Radde's Warbler, two species that I really looked forward to see before the trip.

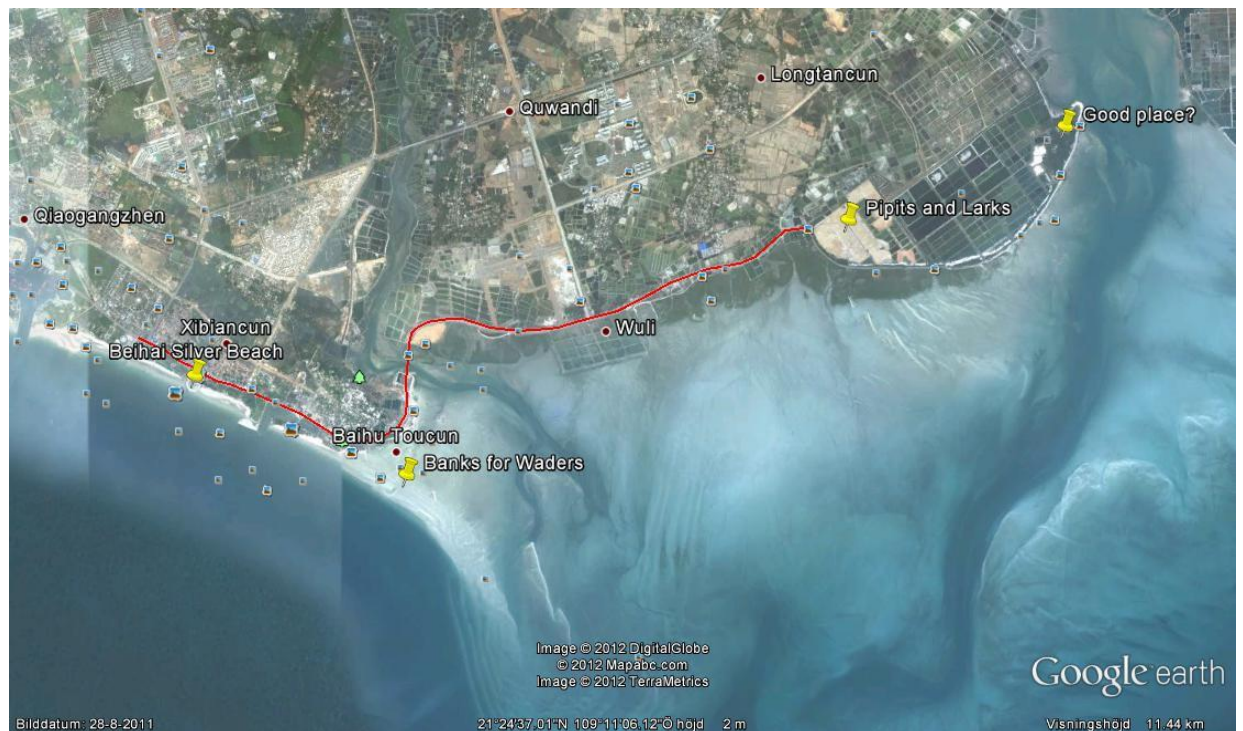


Satellite pictures over Guanting National Forest Park. The red line indicates my route.



Pine forest at Guanting National Forest Park.

The other place I visited was the southern parts of Beihai including the Silver Beach. I rented a bicycle and went along the coastline starting from the Silver Beach and continued westward. Beihai Silver Beach was also easy accessible but got very crowded around mid-day. The western part of the Silver beach turned out to be good for waders and at my visit I had around 500 individuals, mostly Common Greenshanks, Sanderlings and Kentish Plovers. Further east the coastline passed to mangrove forest which was inhabited by Chinese Pond Herons and Little Egrets. At the end of the road along the coastline there was an entrance to a Mangrove forest reserve (a small fee to enter). I didn't enter the reserve because of lack of time. I though think that the area at the tip of that reserve looks good (at least at satellite pictures). Close to the entrance of reserve was a grassland area that turned out to be good for pipits and larks such as Richard's Pipit, Red-throated pipit and Oriental Skylark etc.



Satellite pictures over the Silver beach area. The red line indicates my route.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax capillatus*

1 ex. Beihai Silver Beach, Beihai 15/12

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

2 ex. Wuli, Beihai 15/12

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

5 ex. Beihai Silver Beach, Beihai 15/12, 30 ex. Wuli, Beihai 15/12

Cattle Egret *Egretta garzetta*

5 ex. Tieshan Harbour 11/12

Great Egret *Casmerodius albus*

5 ex. Tieshan Harbour 11/12

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

2 ex. Tieshan Harbour 5/12

Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus*

1 ex. Tieshan Harbour 5/12, 5 ex. Tieshan Harbour 13/12, 15 ex. Wuli, Beihai 15/12

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

4 ex. Baisha 11-14/12

Oriental Honey-buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

1 ex. (light morph) juvenile Guantoling National Forest Park, Beihai 8/12

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

3 ex. Guantoling National Forest Park, Beihai 8/12, 1 ex. Beihai Airport 22/12

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrines ssp. Calidus*

1 ex. Guantoling National Forest Park, Beihai 8/12, 1 ex. Shangri-La Hotel, Beihai 17-18/12

Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

1 ex. Baisha 3/12

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

1 ex. Beihai Silver Beach, Beihai 15/12

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

100 ex. Beihai Silver Beach, Beihai 15/12

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

1 ex. Guantoling National Forest Park, Beihai 8/12

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

1 ex. Guantoling National Forest Park, Beihai 8/12

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

100 ex. Beihai Silver Beach, Beihai 15/12

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

50 ex. Beihai Silver Beach, Beihai 15/12

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

50 ex. Beihai Silver Beach, Beihai 15/12

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

13 ex. Beihai Silver Beach, Beihai 15/12

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

20 ex. Beihai Silver Beach, Beihai 15/12

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

20 ex. Beihai Silver Beach, Beihai 15/12

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

150 ex. Beihai Silver Beach, Beihai 15/12

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*

10 ex. Beihai Silver Beach, Beihai 15/12

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultia*

1 ex. Beihai Silver Beach, Beihai 15/12

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

10 ex. Guantoling National Forest Park, Beihai 8/12 12

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*

Common in Beihai

Red Collared Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica*

2 ex. Guantoling National Forest Park, Beihai 8/12, 1 ex. Beihai Silver Beach, Beihai 15/12

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*

1 ex. Shankou 5/12

House Swift *Apus affinis*

50 ex. Guantoling National Forest Park, Beihai 8/12, 3 ex. Beihai Silver Beach, Beihai 15/12

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

1 ex. Hepu 12-13/12

White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*

1 ex. Baisha 12/12, 1 ex. Wuli, Beihai 15/12

Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula*

5 ex. Wuli, Beihai 15/12

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

2 ex. Guantoling National Forest Park, Beihai 8/12, 10 ex. Beihai Silver Beach, Beihai 15/12, 100 ex. Wuli, Beihai 15/12, 2 ex. Beihai Underwater World Park 22/12

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica ssp. Nipalensis*

100 ex. Guantoling National Forest Park, Beihai 8/12

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*

3 ex. Wuli, Beihai 15/12

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

3 ex. Baisha 5/12, 5 ex. Guantoling National Forest Park, Beihai 8/12, 10 ex. Beihai Silver Beach, Beihai 15/12

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

4 ex. Wuli, Beihai 15/12

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba ssp. Leucopsis*

5 ex. Baisha 5/12, 5 ex. Guantoling National Forest Park, Beihai 8/12, 30 ex. Beihai Silver Beach, Beihai 15/12

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*

1 ex. Beihai Silver Beach, Beihai 15/12, 1 ex. Baisha 17/12

Light-vented Bulbul (Chinese Bulbul) *Pycnonotus sinensis*

Common in Beihai. 50 ex. Guantoling National Forest Park, Beihai 8/12. 20 ex. Beihai Silver Beach, Beihai 15/12, 20 ex. Beihai Underwater World Park 22/12. Two different forms of *sinensis* were seen in Beihai.

Sooty-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster*

20 ex. Guantoling National Forest Park, Beihai 8/12

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach ssp. Schach*

Common on the countryside. 1 ex. Guantoling National Forest Park, Beihai 8/12, 15 ex. Beihai Silver Beach, Beihai 15/12 with a few individuals as dark morph. 1 ex. Beihai Underwater World Park 22/12, 1 ex. Zhongshan Park 22/12

Orange-flanked Bush Robin *Tarsiger cyanurus*

3 ex. Guantoling National Forest Park, Beihai 8/12, 1 ex. Wuli, Beihai 15/12

Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis*

2 ex. Baisha 3-19/12, 5 ex. Guantoling National Forest Park, Beihai 8/12, 2 ex. Beihai Silver Beach, Beihai 15/12, 2 ex. Beihai Underwater World Park 22/12

Daurian Redstart *Phoenicurus auroreus*

1 ex. male Baisha 5/12, 2 ex. Guantoling National Forest Park, Beihai 8/12, 1 ex. female Beihai Silver Beach, Beihai 15/12

Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquata ssp. Maura?*

1 ex. female Guantoling National Forest Park, Beihai 8/12, 1 ex. Beihai 15/12, 3 ex. Beihai Silver Beach, Beihai 15/12

Grey Bushchat *Saxicola ferrea*

5 ex. Guantoling National Forest Park, Beihai 8/12

Grey-backed Thrush *Turdus hortulorum*

1 ex. (female) Beihai Underwater World Park 22/12

Japanese Thrush *Turdus cardis*

2 ex. (a couple) Beihai Underwater World Park 22/12

Eurasian Blackbird *Turdus merula*

5 ex. Guantoling National Forest Park, Beihai 8/12

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

4 ex. Guantoling National Forest Park, Beihai 8/12, 3 ex. Beihai Silver Beach, Beihai 15/12

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*

1 ex. Guantoling National Forest Park, Beihai 8/12

Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

40 ex. Guantoling National Forest Park, Beihai 8/12, 4 ex. Beihai Underwater World Park 22/12

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Common

Blyth's Leaf Warbler

1 ex. Beihai Silver Beach, Beihai 15/12

Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps*

2 ex. Guantoling National Forest Park, Beihai 8/12

Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris*

1 ex. Beihai Silver Beach, Beihai 15/12

Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*

5 ex. Guantoling National Forest Park, Beihai 8/12, 1 ex. Beihai Underwater World Park 22/12

Mugimaki Flycatcher *Ficedula mugimaki*

3 ex. Guantoling National Forest Park, Beihai 8/12

Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica*

1 ex. Beihai Underwater World Park 22/12

Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*

1 ex. male Guantoling National Forest Park, Beihai 8/12

Great Tit *Parus major*

2 ex. Guantoling National Forest Park, Beihai 8/12, 2 ex. Beihai Silver Beach, Beihai 15/12

Plain Flowerpecker *Dicaeum concolor*

1 ex. Beihai 22/12, 2 ex. Zhongshan Park 22/12

Japanese White-eye *Zosterops japonicus*

Common

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*

5 ex. Beihai Underwater World Park 22/12

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

10 ex. Baisha 5/12, 30 ex. Wuli, Beihai 15/12

Red-billed Starling *Sturnus sericeus*

20 ex. Beihai 15/12, 1 ex. Wuli, Beihai 15/12

Crested Myna *Acridotheres cristatellus*

5 ex. Beihai 15/12, 2 ex. Beihai Silver Beach, Beihai 15/12

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*

1 ex. juvenile Guantoling National Forest Park, Beihai 8/12

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*

2 ex. Wuli, Beihai 15/12

Red-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*

1 ex. Baisha 14/12

Grey-capped Greenfinch (Oriental Greenfinch) *Carduelis sinica*

7 ex. Beihai Silver Beach, Beihai 15/12



Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps*



Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*



Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*



Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

1 ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12

Black Vulture *Aegypius monachus*

2 ex. N of Wangjinglou, Beijing 23/12

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

2 ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12

Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*

5 ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

1 ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12, 3 ex. Jingshan Park, Beijing 25/12

Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos canicapillus*

2 ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

1 ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12, 2 ex. Badaling 24/12, 1 ex. Jingshan Park, Beijing 25/12

Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus*

1 ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12

Azure-winged Magpie *Cyanopica cyanus*

20 ex. Beijing 1/12, 80 ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12, 50 ex. Jingshan Park, Beijing 25/12

Red-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*

15 ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12, 1 ex. Badaling 24/12

Common Magpie *Pica pica*

2 ex. Beijing 1/12, 10 ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12, 20 ex. Badaling 24/12, 10 ex. Jingshan Park, Beijing 25/12

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

10 ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12, 10 ex. Badaling 24/12

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*

45 ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12, 5 ex. Jingshan Park, Beijing 25/12

Great Tit *Parus minor*

37 ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12, 5 ex. Badaling 24/12

Yellow-bellied Tit *Parus venustulus*

32 ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*

12 ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12, 2 ex. Jingshan Park, Beijing 25/12

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus ssp. vinaceus*

18 ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12 (a flock of 15 at entrance to Cherry Valley)

Chinese Hill Warbler (White-browed Chinese Warbler) *Rhopophilus pekinensis*
6 ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12, 1 ex. Badaling 24/12

Light-vented Bulbul (Chinese Bulbul) *Pycnonotus sinensis*
8 ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12, 10 ex. Jingshan Park, Beijing 25/12

Pere David's Laughingthrush (Plain Laughingthrush) *Garrulax davidi*
31 ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12

Vinous-throated Parrotbill *Paradoxornis webbianus*
28 ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*
11 ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12

Northern Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*
1 ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12

Chinese Nuthatch *Sitta villosa*
4 ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12

White-cheeked Starling *Sturnus cineraceus*
10 ex. Jingshan Park, Beijing 25/12

Black-throated Thrush *Turdus atrogularis*
1 ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12

Red-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis*
3 ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12, 2 ex. (Male) Jingshan Park, Beijing 25/12

Naumann's Thrush *Turdus naumanni*
13 ex. (11 naumanni & two intergrades) Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12, 70 ex. Jingshan Park, Beijing 25/12

Dusky Thrush *Turdus enomus*
2 ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12, 20 ex. Jingshan Park, Beijing 25/12

Northern Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus*
2 ex. (one female-type & one heard-only) Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*
Common

Siberian Accentor *Prunella montanella*
13 ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*
1 ex. (Male) Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*
600+ ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12

Grey-capped Greenfinch (Oriental Greenfinch) *Carduelis sinica*
5 ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12

Eurasian Siskin *Carduelis spinus*
6 ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12

Pallas' Rosefinch *Carpodacus roseus*
18+ ex. (11 ex. while descending towards Xioang Shan), 1 ex. Badaling 24/12

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*
3 ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12

Yellow-billed Grosbeak *Eophona migratoria*
8 ex. Jingshan Park, Beijing 25/12

Eastern Rock Bunting (Godlewski's Bunting) *Emberiza godlewskii*
7 ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12

Tristram's Bunting *Emberiza tristrami*
7+ ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*
1 ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12

Yellow-throated Bunting *Emberiza elegans*
14 ex. Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12

Mammal Species

Pere David's Rock Squirrel
1 ex. Cherry Valley, Beijing Botanical Garden 23/12



Beijings Botanical Garden