

# Yunnan, China, with OBC: Nov 2010.

***An at-a-glance list of 387 species of birds & seven species of mammals recorded.***

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Please note that the following list is best considered a work in progress. It should not be quoted without consulting the author.

Based mostly on my own field notes, this brief write-up covers the birds & mammals noted by G Bowen, P Duffus, R Robinson, T Townshend & myself in Yunnan over **7-27 November 2010**.

We recorded 387 species. An additional 45 (including some Palearctic Megas) were logged on pre- & post-trip excursions near Beijing on 6<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> – for want of what else to do with them, and to make it easier for future travellers to decide if it might be worth their while to extend their visit by a day or two, these are included in the list.

Around Beijing the weather was as expected fine both before and after the trip - unfortunately a flight delay caused PD to miss the highly rewarding excursion to Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup> (but GB & I were happy to welcome M Moeller on board for the day), and regrettably neither GB, RR nor TT were able to stay on for an extra day so on 29<sup>th</sup> it was only PD & myself who made the most of a fine, on-the-threshold-of-winter day at Botanical Gardens.

In Yunnan the weather lived up to expectations with no more than 15 minutes of rain in three weeks. We 'did' our main target area, mostly forested habitats at c300-2,500 masl W of the Salween, under mostly magnificently blue skies before bagging the hoped-for Rufous-tailed Moupinia *Moupinia poecilotis* & Yunnan Nuthatch *Sitta yunnanensis* without breaking into a run at Lijiang.

A flight delay shortened what could have been a productive afternoon at Kunming's Xishan, and *force majeure* itinerary adjustments somewhat shifted the emphasis of our activities in the Yingjiang / Gaoligongshan section of the trip: this may have 'cost us' a few species but was simply the kind of thing one has to accept when travelling (as the write-up put it) 'in fairly remote and culturally alien' areas, and as we did NOT permit the adjustments to deprive us of time in the field it is by no means certain that the changes were not to our advantage.

The birds, the mammals, the butterflies, the plants, the scenery, the stimulating mix of local cultures, the wonderful food, the comfortable accommodations & (not least) the companionship all came together to produce a trip the more memorable for the region being so desperately under-visited by birdwatchers.

Thank you all for making this trip so enjoyable, and thank you for, by joining, contributing to OBC's Conservation Fund. Special thanks are due to Michael Edgecombe for volunteering to coordinate, and to G Bowen & N Farrell for spotting errors in a earlier version.

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## Species list:

**Common Hill Partridge** *Arborophila torqueola*

23+ bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Rufous-throated Hill Partridge** *Arborophila rufogularis*

Three bird-days. Heard on two dates.

**Mountain Bamboo Partridge** *Bambusicola fytchii*

3+ bird-days. Noted on two dates.

**Silver Pheasant** *Lophura nychtemera*

A female flushed from the edge of the track near Ruili on 11<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\***Common Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

31 at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Grey Peacock Pheasant** *Polyplectron bicalcaratum*

Three bird-days. Noted W of Yingjiang on two dates.

\*\*\***Bean Goose** *Anser fabalis*

415 at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

300+ near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*

35 'scoped as they fed peacefully near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup> were down from Tibet for the winter.

\*\*\***Bewick's Swan** *Cygnus columbianus*

16 at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\***Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*

Seven at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*

170 near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*In addition, 375 were seen at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Gadwall** *Anas strepera*

51 bird-days. Noted on two dates @ Dali & Lijiang.

\*\*\*In addition, 12 were seen at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Eurasian Wigeon** *Anas penelope*

30+ near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

32+ bird-days. Noted on two dates at Ruili & near Lijiang.

\*\*\*In addition, five were noted at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Indian Spotbill** *Anas poecilorhyncha*

Up to 52 birds were noted on two dates near Ruili.

**Chinese Spotbill** *Anas zonorhyncha*

35 birds near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup> – superb 'scope views!

\*\*\*In addition, seven birds were recorded at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

Two drakes near Dali on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*

20+ near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Teal** *Anas crecca*

122+ bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Red-crested Pochard** *Netta rufina*

A raft of five offered reasonable 'scope views near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

c20 near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*In addition, c40 at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca*

10+ near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*In addition, it was pleasing to see c35 at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

300+ bird-days. Noted on three dates – main event 300+ near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*In addition, four at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\***Common Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

40 at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\***Smew** *Mergellus albellus*

Eight at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

14 bird-days. Noted on two dates.

\*\*\*In addition, ten were seen at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

160+ bird-days. Noted on three dates – main event 100+ near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*In addition, three were seen well at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

55+ bird-days. Noted on two dates.

\*\*\*In addition, 12 were recorded at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*

Two 'scoped near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra*

Two flew S low over Gaoligongshan at 11h40 on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**\*\*\*Eurasian Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*

Two were trying to pass themselves off as swans at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Heard over Ruili pre-dawn on 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striata*

Five bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Chinese Pond Heron** *Ardeola bacchus*

13 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Eastern Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus coromandus*

c175 bird-days. Seen on at least six dates.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

Five bird-days. Noted on three dates.

\*\*\*An additional singleton was seen at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Intermediate Egret** *Egretta intermedia*

Single birds were noted on two dates.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

11 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Little Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax niger*

Up to 220 were noted near Ruili on two dates.

**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

150+ bird-days. Noted on six dates.

\*\*\*In addition, two were present at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

20 bird-days. Noted on ten dates

\*\*\*In addition, one was seen at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Amur Falcon** *Falco amurensis*

One 1<sup>st</sup> c-y bird 'on the Burma border' on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**\*\*\*Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

One hunting at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Eurasian Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

One W of Yingjiang on 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

Six bird-days. Singles on six dates included an adult seen on three 'Burma border' mornings.

**Jerdon's Baza** *Avecida jerdoni*

Four bird-days. This scarce species was seen well on two dates, incl near Tengchong (where previously unrecorded) on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Oriental Honey Buzzard** *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

22 bird-days. Noted on eight dates – a number of them were seen up close, allowing us to appreciate just how wide a range of plumages this species displays.

**Black-shouldered Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*

24 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans lineatus*

1-2 near Kunming on 7<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*Cheng (1987) considered Black Kite to be the commonest *Falconiformes* in China...

**Pallas's Fish Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucoryphus*

A 1<sup>st</sup> c-y bird was seen and photographed W of Yingjiang on 14<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*The species was not listed for Yunnan by Zheng (2005), and Robson (2008) considered it a 'former resident (current status unknown)' in adjacent N Burma.

\*\*\* <http://www.iucnredlist.org/apps/redlist/details/144339/0>

**Himalayan Griffon** *Gyps himalayensis*

A 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> c-y bird flew S at Ruili at 13h54 on 8<sup>th</sup> – not entirely unexpected in this part of the world (up to 22 birds have been seen W of Yingjiang: JH pers obs) but nonetheless a 'local patch' tick for JH...

**Crested Serpent Eagle** *Spilornis cheela*

Three bird-days. Singles were noted on three dates – 'scoping an immature bird as it devoured a snake was memorable.

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

A ringtail near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*In addition, three (an adult male & two ringtails) were seen well at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Crested Goshawk** *Accipiter trivirgatus*

Ten bird-days. Noted on six dates – several superb encounters included three doing wing-flutter display flight on the Burma border on 16<sup>th</sup>, and a perched bird 'scoped (and digiscoped!) at Gaoligongshan on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Besra** *Accipiter virgatus*

Four bird-days. Noted on just two dates.

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

Five bird-days. Singles were seen on five dates.

**Northern Goshawk** *Accipiter gentiles*

Single adults were seen on two dates – super views!

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo japonicus* & *B. b. vulpinus*

13 bird-days. Noted on nine dates – at least two were ssp *vulpinus*.

\*\*\*Note that e.g. Brazil (2009)'s 'Eastern Buzzard *Buteo japonicus*' excludes *vulpinus*.

\*\*\*In addition, singles were noted near Beijing on both 6+26<sup>th</sup>.

**\*\*\*Upland Buzzard** *Buteo hemilasius*

One at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Black Eagle** *Ictinaetus malayensis*

20+ bird-days. Noted on eight dates!

\*\*\*Cheng (1987) considered the species "very rare, being confined to Fujian & Taiwan Provinces".

Lewthwaite (1996) reported three sightings from Guangdong, and the species was noted at Wawu Shan, Sichuan, on two dates in late Apr 2008 (JH *et al.* pers obs).

**Mountain Hawk Eagle** *Spizaetus nipalensis*

Nine bird-days. Noted on five dates – a special treat was repeated views of four individuals (three adults & one immature) 'near the Burma border' on 13<sup>th</sup>.

**White-breasted Waterhen** *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

16 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Purple Swamphen** *Porphyrio porphyrio*

We were treated to superb 'scope views of two birds near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*Considered "very rare" and "not found breeding in China" by Cheng (1987), who listed the species for SW Yunnan as a resident and/or winter visitor at Tengchong (Dec) & Luxi (April).

A more recent publication listed the species also for Jingdong, Gengma, Shiping & Xishuangbanna (M. Rank pers. com.). Listed for Hong Kong only as a Category E species, with 30 or so records during 1988-1998 considered to most likely concern escaped or released birds (Carey *et al.* 2001) although up to 10+ have been recorded on the Guangdong coast NE of Hong Kong (G. Carey pers. com.). Robson (2000) considered Purple Swamphen to be scarce to locally common & subject to only "some minor movements" in SE Asia.

**Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

41+ bird-days. Noted on two dates.

**Common Coot** *Fulica atra*

Noted on two dates – main event 5,000+ near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*In addition, one bird offered hard-to-beat views at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>!

**Common Crane** *Grus grus*

Noted in Yunnan on no less than three dates: 25 heading S near Yingjiang on 19<sup>th</sup>, heard over the Salween on 22<sup>nd</sup> & 33+ presumably wintering birds near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*In addition, 47 were noted at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**\*\*\*Hooded Crane** *Grus monacha*

Superb views of one at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Barred Buttonquail** *Turnix suscitator*

Two birds seen W of Yingjiang on both 14+18<sup>th</sup>.

**Ibisbill** *Ibidorhyncha struthersii*

A glued-to-the-spot singleton 'on the Burma border' on 17+18<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*An infinitely more satisfying experience than seeing the sad one or two pairs that cling on along the very last stretch of barely acceptable water close to Beijing in competition with sickly-looking domestic ducks!

**Northern Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

35 near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**River Lapwing** *Vanellus duvaucelii*

31 bird-days. Noted on four days.

**Red-wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus indicus*

Nine bird-days. Noted on three dates.

\*\*\***Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

Three showed well at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Long-billed Plover** *Charadrius placidus*

One offered prolonged 'scope views at very reasonable range near Yingjiang on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

Four near Yingjiang on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*

Four near Yingjiang on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Eurasian Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

One in flight near Tengchong on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

One en route on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

One near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*The species was not listed for Yunnan by Cheng (1987).

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

One near Yingjiang on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

Seven bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

11 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*

Seven near Yingjiang on 19<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\***Common Gull** *Larus canus heinei*

Four 1<sup>st</sup> c-y birds at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.



**'Large White-headed Gull'**

One adult near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup> was either *mongolicus* or *cachinnans*.

**Brown-headed Gull** *Larus brunnicephalus*

Nine bird-days. Instructive views were had on two dates.

**Common Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*

15+ near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*In addition, 20 were present at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Speckled Wood Pigeon** *Columba hodgsonii*

Four at Gaoligongshan on 22<sup>nd</sup> was the only record.

**Oriental Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia orientalis*

c48 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

\*\*\*In addition, 11 were noted at Botanical Gardens on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Spotted Dove** *Streptopelia chinensis*

29 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

\*\*\*In addition, four at Botanical Gardens on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Barred Cuckoo-Dove** *Macropygia unchall*

Four bird-days. Noted on just two dates.

**Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps indica*

Five bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Thick-billed Green Pigeon** *Treron curvirostra*

40+ bird-days. Noted on three dates – main event c35 on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Pin-tailed Green Pigeon** *Treron apicauda*

191+ bird-days. Noted on six dates - max count c110 on 9<sup>th</sup>: it was great to 'scope that fruiting tree feeding frenzy (even if the angle was punishing!)...

**Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon** *Treron sphenurus*

Five bird-days. Noted on three dates – main event one female 'scoped near Tengchong on 20<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*In addition, a green pigeon heard in Gaoligongshan on 24<sup>th</sup> was probably also this species.

**Mountain Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula badia*

33+ bird-days. This impressive species was noted on no less than four dates.

**Finsch's Parakeet** *Psittacula finschii*

Singles were recorded near Ruili on three dates.

**Red-breasted Parakeet** *Psittacula alexandri*

25,200+ bird-days. Noted on six dates... seeing 17,000+ in a morning near Ruili was pretty special (if not unexpected!).

**Large Hawk-Cuckoo** *Cuculus sparveroides*

Singles were seen on three dates.

**Green-billed Malkoha** *Rhopodytes tristis*

Nine bird-days. Noted on six dates.

**Greater Coucal** *Centropus sinensis*

Four bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Lesser Coucal** *Centropus bengalensis*

One 'near the Burma border' on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Mountain Scops Owl** *Otus spilocephalus*

Singles heard on two occasions.

**Collared Scops Owl** *Otus lettia*

Singles heard on two dates.

**?Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl** *Bubo nipalensis*

A very large owl seen briefly [RR] was almost certainly this species.

**Brown Wood Owl** *Strix leptogrammica*

One heard near Ruili as dawn broke on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Chinese Tawny Owl** *Strix nivicola*

One present @ HQ at Gaoligongshan.

\*\*\*"The Indian taxa *biddulphi* and *nivicola* are usually considered races of Tawny, but differ markedly from each other in morphology and song, despite their close geographic approach in the W Himalayas; *nivicola* is thus afforded species status [...]":Rasmussen & Anderton (2005).

**Collared Owlet** *Glaucidium brodiei*

11 bird-days. Noted on seven dates – one seen on 22<sup>nd</sup> was a trip highlight.

**White-vented Needletail** *Hirundapus cochinchinensis*

Three W of Yingjiang on 14<sup>th</sup> – BVD!

**Asian Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus balasiensis*

145+ bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Fork-tailed Swift** *Apus pacificus*

16 bird-days. Noted on just two dates.

**House Swift** *Apus nipalensis*

Noted on eight dates – main event 25+ [TT] on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Crested Treeswift** *Hemiprocne coronata*

41 bird-days. Noted only 'on the Burma border' – main event a record 39 on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**White-throated Kingfisher** *Halcyon smyrnensis*

11 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

**Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

15 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

**Crested Kingfisher** *Megaceryle lugubris*

Two W of Yingjiang on both 14+16<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*Cheng (1987) listed this impressive species for NW + S Yunnan, and did not map it for W of the Salween. It is considered a scarce to uncommon resident in adjacent Burma (Robson 2000).

**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*

Eight bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Blue-bearded Bee-eater** *Nyctiornis athertoni*

Seven bird-days. Noted on five dates - several prolonged encounters with this somewhat elusive species.

**Green Bee-eater** *Merops orientalis*

17 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

Ten bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Great Barbet** *Megalaima virens*

56+ bird-days. Noted on 14 dates – main event (and an off-beat trip highlight) 28 on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Golden-throated Barbet** *Megalaima franklinii*

21+ bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Blue-throated Barbet** *Megalaima asiatica*

39 bird-days. Noted on 11 dates.

**Coppersmith Barbet** *Megalaima haemacephala*

Four bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Northern Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*

Outstanding views of a single bird 'on the Burma border' on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Speckled Piculet** *Picumnus innominatus*

Seven bird-days. Noted on five dates – incl at Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>, JH's 1<sup>st</sup> record there since 1988.

**Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos canicapillus*

13 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

\*\*\*In addition, two at Botanical Gardens on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Stripe-breasted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos atratus*

Four bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

One near Tengchong on 20<sup>th</sup> was the only record.

**Lesser Yellownape** *Picus chlorolophus*

Nine bird-days. Noted on six dates.

**Greater Yellownape** *Picus flavinucha*

Five bird-days. Noted in Gaoligongshan on two dates.

**Grey-headed Woodpecker** *Picus canus*

Outstanding views of two males near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.  
\*\*\*In addition, four at Botanical Gardens on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Greater Goldenback** *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*

Six bird-days. Noted on no less than five dates – after giving us the run-around one finally allowed its curiosity get the better of it...

**Pale-headed Woodpecker** *Gecinulus grantia*

One seen well W of Yingjiang on 17<sup>th</sup>.  
\*\*\*Rarely recorded in China...

**Bay Woodpecker** *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*

20 bird-days. Noted on nine dates – the majority didn't even come close to showing...

**Long-tailed Broadbill** *Psarisomus dalhousiae*

Heard on two dates.

**Large Woodshrike** *Tephrodornis virgatus*

c60 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Ashy Woodswallow** *Artamus fuscus*

39 bird-days. Noted 'on the Burma border' on three dates – main event 34 on 14<sup>th</sup>, a considerable improvement on a previous highest count of just six!

**Common Iora** *Aegithina tiphia*

Three bird-days. Noted on two dates.

**Large Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina macei*

15 bird-days. Noted on six dates – a few heard-onlies first, but 'no need to panic!'...

**Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina melaschistos*

21 bird-days. Noted on ten dates.

**Rosy Minivet** *Pericrocotus roseus*

7+ bird-days. Noted near Ruili on four dates.

**Grey-chinned Minivet** *Pericrocotus solaris*

Nine bird-days. Noted at Gaoligongshan on two dates.

**Long-tailed Minivet** *Pericrocotus ethologus*

5+ bird-days. Noted on just two dates.

**Short-billed Minivet** *Pericrocotus brevirostris*

52 bird-days. Noted on nine dates.

**Scarlet Minivet** *Pericrocotus speciosus*

79+ bird-days. Noted on 13 bird-days.

\*\*\***Minivet sp** *Pericrocotus sp.*

23 migr on 16<sup>th</sup> were either Short-billed or Scarlet, while ten at the Mekong on 25<sup>th</sup> were almost certainly Long-tailed.

**Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike** *Hemipus picatus*

44+ bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

**Long-tailed Shrike** *Lanius schach*

45 bird-days. Noted on nine dates.

**Grey-backed Shrike** *Lanius tephronotus*

30 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

\*\*\***Long-tailed / Grey-backed Shrike** *Lanius schach / L. tephronotus*

Ten en route on 25<sup>th</sup>...

\*\*\***Chinese Grey Shrike** *Lanius sphenocercus*

Four at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup> – at least two put on a really good show, and even felt inspired by the sunny, calm conditions to warble merrily.

**Slender-billed Oriole** *Oriolus tenuirostris*

14+ bird-days. Noted on three dates – outstanding views near Tengchong on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-hooded Oriole** *Oriolus xanthornus*

One on 16<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*Zheng *et al.* (2005) listed the species only for W Yunnan. Possibly there are only four other modern records for China: three from the Burma border (JH *et al.* pers. obs.) & a winter 2002/2003 sighting N of Ruili 'by Hong Kong birders' (Liu Yang pers. com.).

**Maroon Oriole** *Oriolus traillii*

41 bird-days. Noted on 14 dates, incl near Tengchong (one female-type bird on 20<sup>th</sup>) where not previously recorded.

**Black Drongo** *Dicrurus macrocercus*

Two near Yingjiang on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Ashy Drongo** *Dicrurus leucophaeus*

63 bird-days. Noted on 17 dates.

**Bronzed Drongo** *Dicrurus aeneus*

209+ bird-days. Noted on 12 dates.

**Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus remifer*

Singletons were noted on two dates.

**Hair-crested Drongo** *Dicrurus hottentottus*

61 bird-days. Noted on six dates – main event 33 heading @SE on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Greater Racket-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus paradiseus*

Eight bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Yellow-bellied Fantail** *Chelidorhynch hypoxantha*

51 bird-days. This attractive species – a winter visitor – was noted on 14 dates.

**White-throated Fantail** *Rhipidura albicollis*

78 bird-days. Noted on 17 dates.

**Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

14-15 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

\*\*\*Dickinson (2003) listed no less than 35 subspecies – we saw the spectacular, clown-faced *leucotis* W of the Salween & *sinensis* at Lijiang.

\*\*\***Azure-winged Magpie** *Cyanopica cyanus*

Quite common around Beijing – 105+ at Botanical Gardens on 29<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*Apparently (G Pettersson pers com) the Iberian taxon, *C. (c.) cooki*, has been shown to be sufficiently differentiated genetically to merit elevation to full species status. In addition to the one we saw, ssp *interposita*, the eastern species includes a further six taxa (Dickinson 2003)...

**Yellow-billed Blue Magpie** *Urocissa flavirostris*

Two at Gaoligongshan on 21<sup>st</sup> – BVD!

**Red-billed Blue Magpie** *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*

20+ bird-days. Noted on five dates – memorable views were had at Lijiang.

\*\*\*In addition, 7+ at Botanical Gardens on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Green Magpie** *Cissa chinensis*

6+ bird-days. Noted on three dates – one near Ruili did very convincing vocal mimicry of Red-billed Blue Magpie (and quite a few other species!) before finally flying over & disappearing...

**Grey Treepie** *Dendrocitta formosae*

61 bird-days. Noted on 15 dates.

**Collared Treepie** *Dendrocitta frontalis*

Four bird-days - this sought-after species was noted on three dates W of Yingjiang.

\*\*\*Cheng (1987) listed the species for “Xizang Aut. Reg. (Medog), China-Burma boundary along Western Yunnan” but gave no indication of its abundance. Robson (2000) considered the species a rare resident in adjacent N Burma, occurring up to 1,220m; King *et al.* (2001) however found it to be fairly common there in November 1999, with 119 bird-days for 12 days. The species’ range stretches from Darjeeling to W+E Tonkin; Grimmett *et al.* (1998) noted that in India it is “locally frequent in Arunachal Pradesh, very few recent records from elsewhere”, occurring up to 2,100m, whilst in Bhutan it is “uncommon”.

Vocalisations are “poorly described, but has a wide variety of calls similar to those of other treepies (Ali and Ripley 1987)” (Grimmett *et al.* 1998) – the species was one of the few for which Robson (2000) offered no description of voice.

**Common Magpie** *Pica pica*

Two S of Tengchong (GB, PD, RR & TT) – a new record for the area.

\*\*\*In addition, ‘common’ around Beijing.

\*\*\***Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

Two at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**\*\*\*Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

One at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**'Large-billed' Crow** *Corvus 'macrorhynchos'*

The 'official' part of the tour missed presumed ssp *mandshuricus* around Beijing (eight at Botanical Gardens on 29<sup>th</sup>: PD & JH); birds which would be *levaillantii* scored four bird-days (being noted on two dates W of the Salween), while one near Tengchong on 20<sup>th</sup> did not allow close scrutiny.

\*\*\*It has only gradually dawned on us that it would be justified to pay closer attention to these birds...

\*\*\*Robson (2008) elevates one of these taxa to full species status as Eastern Jungle Crow *Corvus levaillantii* but without including SW-most Yunnan in its range.

**\*\*\*Bohemian Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulous*

Eight at Botanical Gardens on 29<sup>th</sup>!

**\*\*\*Japanese Waxwing** *Bombycilla japonica*

14 showed superbly (and gave the diagnostic 'tea kettle' whistle) at Botanical Gardens on 29<sup>th</sup>!

**'Eastern Great' Tit** *Parus 'minor'*

43+ bird-days<sup>^</sup>. Noted on ten dates.

\*\*\*In addition, six bird-days for Wild Duck Lake & Botanical Gardens.

\*\*\*Both taxa belong with *minor*, one on 3-4 'Great Tit' species in China. Keep your fingers crossed that the inappropriate name 'Japanese' Tit doesn't stick for this one...

\*\*\*<sup>^</sup>Cheng (1987) listed only *subtibetanus* for Yunnan.

**Green-backed Tit** *Parus monticolus*

7+ bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**\*\*\*Yellow-bellied Tit** *Parus venustulus*

12 at Botanical Gardens on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellow-cheeked Tit** *Parus spilonotus*

25 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

**\*\*\*Marsh Tit** *Parus palustris*

Superb views of four at Botanical Gardens on 29<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*Given that 'each male [Marsh Tit] may have a repertoire of up to 19 song variants' (Harrap & Quinn 1996), differences in vocalizations between this taxon, the SE-most, and others will need to be shored up by DNA & behavioral studies before skeptics will even begin to consider elevating the morphologically only subtly different *hellmayri* to full species status...

**Yellow-browed Tit** *Sylviparus modestus*

7+ bird-days. Noted on just two dates.

**\*\*\*Penduline Tit** *Remiz pendulinus consobrinus*

Four at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Grey-throated Sand Martin** *Riparia chinensis*

c135 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

\*\*\*Split from Plain Martin *R. paludicola* following Rasmussen & Anderton (2005).

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*  
350+ bird-days. Noted on 13 bird-days.

**Wire-tailed Swallow** *Hirundo smithii*  
Six bird-days. Noted on two dates 'on the Burma border'.

**Asian House Martin** *Delichon dasypus*  
64+ bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Nepal House Martin** *Delichon nipalense*  
80+ over Gaoligongshan on 23<sup>rd</sup>, giving super views: 'some synchronized flutter-flying "going on" involving mostly two birds, sometimes three' - TINGALING!

**Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis daurica*  
c120 bird-days. Noted on five dates – main event c100 W of Yingjiang on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Striated Swallow** *Cecropis striolata*  
29+ bird-days. Noted on six dates.

**Black-throated Tit** *Aegithalos concinnus*  
142+ bird-days. Noted on ten dates – main event a flock of no less than 37 near Tengchong on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Pere Bonvalot's Tit** *Aegithalos bonvaloti*  
3+ at Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\***Asian' Lesser Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella 'cheleensis'*  
25 at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\***Eurasian Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*  
25 at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Oriental Skylark** *Alauda gulgula*  
41 bird-days. Noted on just two dates...

\*\*\***Fan-tailed Warbler** *Cisticola juncidis*  
Four at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\***Chinese Hill Warbler** *Rhopophilus pekinensis*  
11 bird-days – this skulky endemic was seen well at both Wild Duck Lake & Botanical Gardens.

**Hill Prinia** *Prinia superciliaris*  
Ten bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Rufescent Prinia** *Prinia rufescens*  
Two 'on the Burma border' on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Grey-breasted Prinia** *Prinia hodgsonii*  
56 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.



**Plain Prinia** *Prinia inornata*

11 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Mountain Tailorbird** *Orthomus cucullatus*

48 bird-days. Noted on ten dates.

**Common Tailorbird** *Orthomus sutorius*

68 bird-days. Noted on 11 dates.

**Crested Finchbill** *Spizixos canifrons*

155+ bird-days. Noted on seven dates – this charismatic species was especially common near Ruili.

**Striated Bulbul** *Pycnonotus striatus*

50+ bird-days. Noted on nine dates.

**Black-crested Bulbul** *Pycnonotus flaviventris*

18 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

**Red-whiskered Bulbul** *Pycnonotus jocosus*

34+ bird-days. Noted on six dates.

**Brown-breasted Bulbul** *Pycnonotus xanthorrhous*

65+ bird-days. Noted on five dates – common @ Lijiang...

**\*\*\*Chinese Bulbul** *Pycnonotus sinensis*

30+ at Botanical Gardens on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Red-vented Bulbul** *Pycnonotus cafer*

208+ bird-days. Noted on 14 dates.

**Flavescent Bulbul** *Pycnonotus flavescens*

51 bird-days. Noted on nine dates.

**White-throated Bulbul** *Criniger flaveolus*

80 bird-days. Noted on nine dates.

**Grey-eyed Bulbul** *Iole propinqua*

13 bird-days. Noted on the Burma border on four dates.

**Mountain Bulbul** *Ixos mccllellandii*

62+ bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

**Ashy Bulbul** *Hemixos flavala*

62 bird-days. Noted on ten dates.

**Black Bulbul** *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*

655+ bird-days. Noted on 14 dates.

\*\*\*What with three morphs – in addition to all-black(ish) birds, white-breasted ssp *leucothorax* and white-headed birds (sspp *leucocephalus* & *stresemanni*) were seen – this attractive species is a strong 'presence' almost throughout the region covered by our trip.

**Striated Warbler** *Megalurus palustris*

32 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Chestnut-headed Tesia** *Oligura castaneocoronata*

31 bird-days. Noted on seven dates – this tiny gem of a bird embodies the joys and frustrations of birdwatching near the Burma border: fairly common, reasonably widespread? Yes, evidently... Easy to see? NO!!

**Slaty-bellied Tesia** *Tesia olivea*

17+ bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Grey-bellied Tesia** *Tesia cyaniventer*

39 bird-days. Noted on 11 dates - a single bird heard singing at Tengchong on 20<sup>th</sup> was only JH's 2<sup>nd</sup> for the area (the 1<sup>st</sup> was as long ago as 15 Nov 2000!).

**Pale-footed Bush Warbler** *Cettia pallidipes*

Five bird-days. Seen (& heard!) near Ruili on two dates.

**Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler** *Cettia fortipes*

Three near Tengchong on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Spotted Bush Warbler** *Bradypterus thoracicus*

One heard singing briefly near the Burma border on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Russet Bush Warbler** *Bradypterus mandelli*

One heard singing briefly near the Burma border on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Dusky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

61 bird-days. Noted on eight dates (incl an unusually late singleton near Lijiang on 27<sup>th</sup>) – all those seen properly were *fuscatus*.

\*\*\*Martens (2008) unconvincingly aligns *weigoldicus* with Smoky Warbler *P. fulgiventor*

[http://globiz.sachsen.de/snsd/publikationen/vertebrate-zoology/vz58-2/06\\_Martens.pdf](http://globiz.sachsen.de/snsd/publikationen/vertebrate-zoology/vz58-2/06_Martens.pdf)

**'Chinese' Tickell's Warbler** *Phylloscopus occisinensis*

Singles were seen well on two dates.

\*\*\*Martens (2008) elevates part of Tickell's Leaf Warbler to full species status as *P. occisinensis*

[http://globiz.sachsen.de/snsd/publikationen/vertebrate-zoology/vz58-2/06\\_Martens.pdf](http://globiz.sachsen.de/snsd/publikationen/vertebrate-zoology/vz58-2/06_Martens.pdf)

**Buff-throated Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus subaffinis*

Two near Tengchong on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellow-streaked Warbler** *Phylloscopus armandii*

Two near Tengchong on 19<sup>th</sup> – for most of us, BVD...

**Buff-barred Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus pulcher*

64+ bird-days. Noted on seven dates this delightful species offered outstanding views.

**Ashy-throated Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus maculipennis*

16 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Chinese Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus yunnanensis*

Singles were noted on two dates.

\*\*\*The “newly described” “*Phylloscopus sichuanensis*” in fact dates back to 1922: Dickinson (2003). It remains to be seen if the German name should be changed from Alstromlaubsanger to Latouche-laubsanger? Cheng (1987) listed *P. yunnanensis* as a synonym of *chloronotus*. Martens *et al.* 2004 (*vide* Rheindt 2006) apparently proposed to change the now well-established English name for this species to ‘La Touche’s Leaf Warbler’...

**Pallas’s Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus*

13 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

\*\*\*In addition, a lingering migrant was heard at Botanical Gardens on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**‘Eastern’ Lemon-rumped Warbler** *Phylloscopus ‘forresti’*

73+ bird-days. Noted on 13 dates.

\*\*\*Martens *et al.* 2004 (*vide* Rheindt 2006) elevated *forresti*, considered a synonym of *chloronotus* by Cheng (1987), to full species status, splitting it from *chloronotus* (of Nepal) which, with *simlaensis*, becomes Western Lemon-rumped Warbler. The two differ “dramatically in song and mitochondrial DNA (4.2% cytochrome-b divergence)”: Rheindt (2006). Given that the type locality for *forresti* is Lijiang, in Yunnan (Cheng 1987) it is not obvious that “Sichuan Leaf Warbler” is preferable to ‘Eastern Lemon-rumped Warbler’. “Presumably the hitherto unknown border between both species lies somewhere in Yunnan, Burma or north-eastern India.”: Rheindt (2006). *Ahem?*

**Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*

131 bird-days. Noted on 13 dates – only a few were seen well, but it was nice to become thoroughly familiar with the distinctive call of this species.

**Hume’s Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus humei*

104 bird-days. Noted on 13 dates.

\*\*\*No reason to think that any were not ssp *mandellii*, a taxon tentatively given full species status by Rasmussen & Anderton (2005).

**Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

Ten bird-days. Noted in the lowlands on five dates – incl at least one ssp *plumbeitarsus*.

**Blyth’s Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus reguloides*

79 bird-days. Noted on W of the Salween ten dates.

**White-tailed Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus davisoni*

57+ bird-days. Noted on 13 dates.

**Grey-crowned Warbler** *Seicercus tephrocephalus*

27 bird-days. Noted on five dates – unsurpassable views of a calling singleton on the Burma border on 18<sup>th</sup>...

**Bianchi’s Warbler** *Seicercus valentini*

57 bird-days. Noted on 11 dates.

**Grey-cheeked Warbler** *Seicercus poliogenys*

Nine bird-days. This low-key species was seen on three dates.

**Chestnut-crowned Warbler** *Seicercus castaniceps*  
14 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

**Rufous-faced Warbler** *Abroscopus albogularis*  
18 bird-days. Noted on three dates W of Yingjiang.

**Black-faced Warbler** *Abroscopus schisticeps*  
Six bird-days. Noted on two dates.

**Yellow-bellied Warbler** *Abroscopus superciliaris*  
42 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

**Puff-throated Babbler** *Pellorneum ruficeps*  
48 bird-days. Noted on eight dates, this eccentric species initially declined to show well but eventually did – NICE ONE!

**Spot-breasted Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus erythrocnemis*  
50 bird-days. Noted on 12 dates.

\*\*\*ssp *odicus* (of NE and E Burma, N Indochina, S Yunnan and Guizhou (except N)), is now by some authors<sup>^</sup> included in a 'new' species, *P. gravivox*<sup>^</sup>, comprising also the taxa *gravivox* (of S Gansu, S Shaanxi, S Shanxi, NW Henan, and N Sichuan), *cowensae* (of C and E Sichuan, N Guizhou, and W Hubei), *dedekensi* of '(N)E Xizang', W Sichuan, and NW Yunnan) & *decarlei* (of 'E Xizang', SW Sichuan, and NW Yunnan), in a rearrangement which leaves *mcclellandi* (of E Bhutan, NE India, E Bangladesh & W Burma) as a monotypic, extralimital species under the English name 'Spot-breasted Scimitar Babbler' (despite its having the least spotted breast of the lot), *swinhoei* & *abbreviatus* as Grey-sided Scimitar Babbler, endemic to S & SE China, and *erythrocnemis* as a monotypic Taiwan endemic under the English name Black-necklaced Scimitar Babbler.

In the absence of DNA analysis and a thorough study of the notoriously varied vocalizations of these birds, such provisional rearrangement seems fairly pointless...

\*\*\*<sup>^</sup> incl Collar & Robson in HBW vol 12, following Collar (2006) who launched this 'new' arrangement, which clearly rests on uncertain foundations and is in need of considerable fortification (which is not supplied by morphometric analysis, as this shows as much variation within the new species as between them, notably a remarkably long tail in *dedekensi* [sic]...)'...

\*\*\*<sup>^^</sup> included as Black-streaked Scimitar-Babbler by Robson (2008)

**Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*  
84 bird-days. Noted on 14 dates.

**Red-billed Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus ochraceiceps*  
36 bird-days. This emblematic species was noted on no less than five dates.

**Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler** *Xiphirhynchus superciliaris*  
Just one heard in the Gaoligongshan on 24<sup>th</sup> ... the *force majeure* adjustment of plans compounded by a day's grey weather in the prime habitat for this mostly reliable species: ouch!

**Streaked Wren-Babbler** *Napothera brevicaudata*  
Five bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Scaly-breasted Wren-Babbler** *Pnoepyga albiventer*

Two on 22<sup>nd</sup>. One of them showed incredibly well without – purists kindly take note - aid of playback.

**Pygmy Wren-Babbler** *Pnoepyga pusilla*

14 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

**Spotted Wren-Babbler** *Spelaeornis formosus*

Singles were noted on four dates – acceptable views of one of them, with some effort!

**Long-tailed Wren-Babbler** *Spelaeornis reptatus*

Four bird-days. Noted on three dates – the 1<sup>st</sup> was the best: it started calling & then sat up nicely for our team photographers!

\*\*\*“Marked morphological differences between *oatesi*, *chocolatinus* and *reptatus*, all usually treated as races of *Spelaeornis chocolatinus*, suggest that species status is warranted for each. The songs of *oatesi* and *reptatus* differ significantly, but that of *chocolatinus* is undocumented; further study needed.”: Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) – “Grey-bellied Wren-Babbler” is the English name used for *S. reptatus* by Rasmussen & Anderton (2005), for reasons unknown.

**Cachar Wedge-billed Babbler** *Sphenocichla roberti*

Two – a teaser first; then one offering repeated, unobscured views for everyone as it sat on an branch joint & at c15m just for an instant - near Ruili.

\*\*\*“Usually considered wren-babblers, these enigmatic babblers are larger, with strange, deep-based, chisel-like bills and broad rounded tails. Little known in life, they are normally encountered in groups in trees, and perform musical whistled duets. [... *roberti* is] strikingly different from *S. humei* in many aspects of plumage, without any evidence of intergradation despite close geographic approach. Doubtless better considered a separate species on basis of morphology; comparative study of vocalisations desirable when recordings of *roberti* become available.”: Rasmussen & Anderton (2005).

**Rufous-capped Babbler** *Stachyris ruficeps*

41 bird-days. Noted on nine dates.

**Golden Babbler** *Stachyris chrysaea*

21 bird-days. This reasonably widespread species was noted on six dates, and we all eventually got good views.

**Grey-throated Babbler** *Stachyris nigriceps*

16 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Striped Tit-Babbler** *Macronous gularis*

Six bird-days. This lowland species was noted on three dates ‘on the Burma border’.

**Rufous-tailed Moupinia** *Moupinia poecilotis*

Four bird-days. This sought-after endemic was noted on two dates near Lijiang – ‘mission accomplished!’ views on 27<sup>th</sup>!

**Chinese Babax** *Babax lanceolatus*

19+ bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**White-crested Laughingthrush** *Garrulax leucolophus*

'Common' on the Burma border! Noted on five dates – main event 52+ on 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush** *Garrulax monileger*

49+ bird-days. Noted on six dates.

**Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush** *Garrulax pectoralis*

14+ bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Black-throated Laughingthrush** *Garrulax chinensis*

8+ bird-days. Noted near Ruili on two dates.

**\*\*\*Pere David's Laughingthrush** *Garrulax davidi*

16 bird-days – this N China endemic was seen (& heard!) @ Beijing on both 6+29<sup>th</sup>.

**Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush** *Garrulax rufogularis*

Two seen near Ruili on 10<sup>th</sup> - perhaps only the 4<sup>th</sup> record for China.

\*\*\*Robson (2008) considered the species an uncommon resident in adjacent N Burma (& N Tonkin).

**Spotted Laughingthrush** *Garrulax ocellatus*

A singing bird 'responded' in the Gaoligongshan on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Grey-sided Laughingthrush** *Garrulax caerulatus*

2+ noted on 12<sup>th</sup> – BVD!

**Rufous-necked Laughingthrush** *Garrulax ruficollis*

Two heard-onlies was the best we could manage – this restricted-range species was formerly easy to see close to Ruili but the clearing of some hillsides, connected to intensification of cash-crop agriculture, means a more targeted effort and/or more time (or just better luck!) is now required...

**White-browed Laughingthrush** *Garrulax sannio*

50+ bird-days. Noted on ten dates.

**Blue-winged Laughingthrush** *Garrulax squamatus*

Four in the Gaoligongshan on 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Scaly Laughingthrush** *Garrulax subunicolor*

Three in the Gaoligongshan on 24<sup>th</sup> – BVD!

**Elliot's Laughingthrush** *Garrulax elliotii*

Nine bird-days. This China endemic was noted only near Lijiang.

**Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush** *Garrulax erythrocephalus*

25 bird-days. Noted on three dates – evidently not uncommon... but uncommonly hard to get views of!

\*\*\*Collar & Robson (HBW vol 12, p260), following on from Collar (2006), subjects this well-known 'species' to what amounts to a taxonomic ambush which appears to have left their HBW map-maker baffled... of relevance from a Yunnan / China perspective are three 'species':

\*\*\*Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron erythrocephalum*, comprising *erythrocephalum*, *kali* & *nigrimentum*, of which only the latter occurs in 'China' (SE Xizang). It is perhaps symptomatic that Collar (2006) grouped *woodi* with these three! *nigrimentum* 'has crown dark grey with broad black streaks, chestnut only on nape, and is much richer rufous [than extralimital *kali*] throughout underparts and on back and scapulars'.

\*\*\*Assam Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron chrysopterum*, comprising *chrysopterum*, *godwini*, *erythrolaemum*, *woodi* (which occurs in NW & W Yunnan) & *ailaoshanense* (of Ailao Shan, 'C Yunnan' – interestingly, in the treatment of *kinneari* 'Long-tailed Wren Babbler' Ailao Shan is considered to be in SE Yunnan).

The species has a spotted back (unlike *T. melanostigma*), with the spotting extending to lower back (unlike *T. erythrocephalum*), has spotting below arranged in wedge-shapes (smooth-curving scales in *T. melanostigma*), and lacks the rufous patch at base of secondaries (unlike *T. melanostigma*) & (unlike *T. melanostigma*) has no distinct black throat.

*ailaoshanense* differs from *woodi* in having 'crown brighter and with less black on forehead, spotting above dark brown and more arrow-shaped on yellowish olive-brown base'.

\*\*\*Silver-eared Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron melanostigma*, comprising *melanostigma* (NE Burma birds are thought to have been assigned to this form in error), *ramsayi*, *schistaceum*, *subconnectens* & *connectens* (of C & SE Yunnan, NE & C Laos, and N Tonkin).

Hybrid(s?) between the last and *ailaoshanense* have been reported 'calling into question the recent taxonomic split [*sic* - are there any splits except taxonomic ones?] of *T. erythrocephalum*'.

The species differs from *T. erythrocephalum* & *T. chrysopterum* 'in unspotted back, dark primary coverts, more extensive silvery edges on ear-coverts, dark-streaked grey supercilium spreading to upper neck side, black chin and malar area, and olive tinged underparts' – *connectens* 'has scaly effect below even more pronounced [than in *subconnectens*], [and] has yellowish-olive wing fringing (including primary coverts [despite the statement above that dark primary coverts is a feature which distinguishes this species from *T. erythrocephalum* & *T. chrysopterum*])'.

### **Red-tailed Laughingthrush** *Garrulax milnei*

8+ bird-days. Noted on three dates.

### **'Red-faced' Liocichla** *Liocichla (phoenicea) ripponi*

18 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

\*\*\*HBW vol 12 (p265) treats *riponi* (with *wellsi*, of SE Yunnan to NE Guangxi, N Laos & N Tonkin) as Scarlet-faced Liocichla, ranging S to NW-most Thailand. It differs from Crimson-faced Liocichla *L. phoenicea* (with which *bakeri* is placed – this taxon's range is stated to include W & S parts of N Burma and adjacent W Yunnan apparently an error; birds from Gongshan are presumed to be nominate *phoenicea*) in 'having crimson of face replaced by much brighter scarlet extending clearly over eye, onto lores and over malar area to chin, [having] black lateral crown stripe vestigial, crown grayer, underparts paler, [and] undertail browner'. As Ruili, W of Yingjiang & S Gaoligongshan birds are *riponi* (*contra* HBW) *L. phoenicea* may be a Chinese bird species only if the Gongshan birds are indeed that taxon...

### **Silver-eared Mesia** *Leiothrix argentauris*

149+ bird-days. Noted on 11 dates.

### **Red-billed Leiothrix** *Leiothrix lutea*

12 bird-days. Noted on just two dates.

### **Cutia** *Cutia nipalensis*

Five bird-days - this charismatic species was seen well on two dates.

**Black-headed Shrike-Babbler** *Pteruthius rufiventer*

Two heard in Gaoligongshan on 24<sup>th</sup>.

**White-browed Shrike-Babbler** *Pteruthius flaviscapis*

31 bird-days. Noted on 12 dates.

**Black-eared Shrike-Babbler** *Pteruthius melanotis*

Four bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**White-hooded Babbler** *Gampsorhynchus rufulus*

Eight (including 2+ rufous-headed immatures) 'on the Burma border' on 17<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*HBW vol 12 (p212) splits *torquatus* (with *luciae* & *saturation*) as Collared Babbler *G. torquatus*, leaving *rufulus* as a monotypic species ranging into W Yunnan. Zheng *et al.* (2005) listed *torquatus* for S & SW Yunnan - '*torquatus* [...] has very different vocalizations and several morphological distinctions. At Namdapha (SE Arunachal), *G. rufulus* did not respond to playback of *torquatus* tapes (CR)'. Apparently (C Robson verbally: Collar (2006)) 'the vocalizations are constant within these two groupings and entirely different from each other'.

**Rusty-fronted Barwing** *Actinodura egertoni*

60+ bird-days. Noted on nine dates.

**Blue-winged Minla** *Minla cyanouroptera*

130+ bird-days. Noted on 16 dates.

**Chestnut-tailed Minla** *Minla strigula*

62+ bird-days. Noted in the Gaoligongshan on three dates.

**Red-tailed Minla** *Minla ignotinta*

38+ bird-days. Noted on five dates – main event 20+ near Tengchong on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Golden-breasted Fulvetta** *Alcippe chrysotis*

Seven birds seen well on 24<sup>th</sup> – deservedly a fixture on Bird of the Trip shortlists...

**Yellow-throated Fulvetta** *Alcippe cinerea*

c35 bird-days. This restricted-range species was seen at point-blank range in the Gaoligongshan on two dates.

**Rufous-winged Fulvetta** *Alcippe castaneiceps*

25+ bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Spectacled Fulvetta** *Alcippe ruficapilla*

17 bird-days. Noted E of the Salween on three dates.

**Manipur Fulvetta** *Alcippe manipurensis*

21 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

\*\*\*Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) splits *manipurensis* and *tonkinensis* as Manipur Fulvetta *A. manipurensis*. The diminished *A. cinereiceps* is a Mainland China endemic with a range encompassing Fujian & N Guangdong (ssp *guttaticollis*), C Hubei to Hunan (ssp *fucata*), W Hubei to SW Sichuan & Guizhou (ssp *cinereiceps*), and Gansu, S Shaanxi & NE Qinghai [?] (ssp *fessa*) (Dickinson 2003).

\*\*\*Collar (2006) asserts that '*A. manipurensis* [which he upholds by "[taking] on trust" from



Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) vocal evidence to shore up morphological differences] takes with the English name Streak-throated Fulvetta, with Grey-hooded Fulvetta for the diminished *Alcippe cinereiceps*'. That's very helpful, Nigel...

**Rusty-capped Fulvetta** *Alcippe dubia*

34 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

**Brown-cheeked Fulvetta** *Alcippe poiocephala*

26 bird-days. Seen on the Burma border on 15+17<sup>th</sup>.

**'Western' Grey-cheeked Fulvetta** *Alcippe fratercula*

245+ bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

\*\*\*Zou *et al.* (2007) discovered that ssp *schaefferi* (of northern Vietnam, SE Yunnan, Guizhou & Guangxi) & *dauidi* (of 'Gansu, Shannxi [sic], Sichuan, Guizhou, Hunan, Fujian [error?: if correct this is an isolated population; Fujian is listed also for *hueti*] & NE Yunnan), probably, based on range, with *yunnanensis* (which was excluded from the study as no DNA sample was handy; this taxon was listed for Dali by Cheng (1987) and is probably the one occurring at Kunming – from where no taxa was listed by Cheng (1987)) are better considered one species (morphologically they differ in having a brown, not grey, head, and they lack the prominent black superciliary line found in 'the peripheral taxa'), *fratercula* (E & SE Burma, N & C Laos, N Thailand & SW Yunnan) another, *annamensis* (previously considered to belong with Mountain Fulvetta *Alcippe paracensis*) a third, and *morrisonia* (Taiwan), *hueti* (of SE China, 'incl Guangxi, Anhui, Jiangxi, Zhejiang, Fujian & Guangdong') & *rufescentior* (of Hainan) a fourth. The authors concede that a case can be made to consider *morrisonia* a full species: it is c5% diverged from both *hueti* & *rufescentior*.

**Nepal Fulvetta** *Alcippe nipalensis*

32+ bird-days. Noted on three dates.

\*\*\*HBW vol 12 (p153) & Zheng *et al.* (2005) included the species for 'China' only for SE Xizang.

**Rufous-backed Sibia** *Heterophasia annectans*

25 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Grey Sibia** *Heterophasia gracilis*

45 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Black-headed Sibia** *Heterophasia desgodinsi*

12 bird-days. Noted on five dates – superb views of this species were had near Tengchong, where it is a recent colonist.

**Beautiful Sibia** *Heterophasia pulchella*

33 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Long-tailed Sibia** *Heterophasia picaoides*

25 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

\*\*\*Considered very rare by Cheng (1987) who listed it only for Yingjiang & SE Yunnan.

**Striated Yuhina** *Yuhina castaniceps*

420+ bird-days. Noted on six dates.

**Whiskered Yuhina** *Yuhina flavicollis*

64 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

**Stripe-throated Yuhina** *Yuhina gularis*

Heard on two dates in the Gaoligongshan.

**White-collared Yuhina** *Yuhina diademata*

14 bird-days. Outstanding views were had both @ Gaoligongshan & at Lijiang.

**Rufous-vented Yuhina** *Yuhina occipitalis*

227 bird-days. Noted on four dates – main event 190 mostly migr at Gaoligongshan on 21<sup>st</sup>.

\*\*\*Considered a resident by e.g. Robson (2008) this species is in fact a genuine migrant: at Gaoligongshan up to 286 per morning have been recorded passing N in early April (JH pers obs).

**White-bellied Yuhina** *Erpornis zantholeuca*

19+ bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

\*\*\***Vinous-throated Parrotbill** *Paradoxornis webbianus*

Heard-onlies at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup> & at Botanical Gardens on 29<sup>th</sup>... normally an easy one to see but I guess we were out of sync and/or spent too much time watching the waxwings.

**Brown-winged Parrotbill** *Paradoxornis brunneus*

c25 birds offered prolonged views near Tengchong on 20<sup>th</sup> - few birdwatchers visit the range of this subtle beauty.

**Black-throated Parrotbill** *Paradoxornis nipalensis*

c24 bird-days. Noted on two dates.

**Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbill** *Paradoxornis atrosuperciliaris*

10+ bird-days. Noted on two dates – prolonged 'scope views of two near Ruili on 9<sup>th</sup>!

**Greater Rufous-headed Parrotbill** *Paradoxornis ruficeps*

Two on the Burma border on 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Grey-headed Parrotbill** *Paradoxornis gularis*

99+ bird-days. Noted on three dates – main event a flock of 67 W of Yingjiang on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Chestnut-flanked White-eye** *Zosterops erythropleurus*

54+ bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Japanese White-eye** *Zosterops japonicus*

29+ bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

**Oriental White-eye** *Zosterops palpebrosus*

17 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

\*\*\***White-eye sp** *Zosterops sp*

c20 W of Yingjiang on 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

23 bird-days. Noted at Lijiang on two dates.

\*\*\*In addition, one at Botanical Gardens on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**\*\*\*Northern Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Two at Botanical Gardens on 29<sup>th</sup> - superb views of one of them...

**Naga Nuthatch** *Sitta nagaensis*

27 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

**White-tailed Nuthatch** *Sitta himalayensis*

Two were seen well in the Gaoligongshan on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Yunnan Nuthatch** *Sitta yunnanensis*

18 on 26<sup>th</sup> – TINGALING!

**\*\*\*Chinese Nuthatch** *Sitta villosa*

On 29<sup>th</sup> a very showy individual near the Waxwing bush saved us the trouble of combing the general area in search of this sometimes elusive species.

**Velvet-fronted Nuthatch** *Sitta frontalis*

29 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

**Hodgson's Treecreeper** *Certhia hodgsoni*

Two near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*This new-ish split "embraces the Sino-Himalayan [taxa] *hodgsoni* Brooks, 1874 (W Himalayas), *mandellii* Brooks, 1874 (E Himalayas) and *khamensis* Bianchi 1903 (SW & W China [N as far as the road between Jiuzhaigou & Sungpan in N Sichuan])" : D T Tietze *et al.* (2006)

**Bar-tailed Treecreeper** *Certhia himalayana*

Four bird-days. Noted on two dates – one at Lijiang was extremely cooperative...

**Brown-throated Treecreeper** *Certhia manipurensis*

Five bird-days. Noted in Gaoligongshan on two dates.

\*\*\**discolor* & *manipurensis* highly divergent genetically and vocally (see Collar & Pilgrim 2007) – the former becomes a monotypic species whose range includes 'S Xizang' (Zheng *et al.* 2005) while the latter (whose range includes W Yunnan: Zheng *et al.* 2005) groups with extralimital *shanensis* & *meridionalis*.

**Spot-winged Starling** *Saroglossa spiloptera*

71 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

\*\*\*The 1<sup>st</sup> record from China was as recently as 2004 (B Elder & JH pers obs).

**'White-vented' (= Great) Myna** *Acridotheres grandis*

18+ bird-days. Noted on three dates.

\*\*\*This taxon is variously called Crested Myna *A. grandis* (deSchauensee 1984), Jungle Myna *A. (?fuscus) grandis* (Cheng 1987), and Great Myna *A. grandis* (Dickinson 2003).

**Collared Myna** *Acridotheres albocinctus*

126+ bird-days. This restricted-range species was seen well on no less than four dates.

\*\*\*Cheng (1987), giving no indication of its abundance, listed the species for Lijiang and Tengchong.

\*\*\*Rated as globally threatened or near-threatened (Kazmierczak 2000), with a range extending from Manipur to W Yunnan. In SE Asia occurs only in W, N, C & E Burma where it is an uncommon to locally common resident frequenting "open country, grassy areas, cultivation; up to 1,525m"

(Robson 2000), while in Manipur it is a scarce or rare resident of "damp grassy areas often near habitation.

Frequently associates with cattle" (Kazmierczak 2000). Grimmett *et al.* (1998) adds that it is a vagrant to Assam & subject to local movements, stating that its habits are "very similar to those of Jungle Myna [*A. fuscus*]" which in turn are described as "similar to those of Common Myna [*A. tristis*], but not so bold, less of a scavenger, and not so commensal with humans. Keeps in pairs or family parties, or in flocks in winter." In Manipur the species "often feeds and roosts with White-vented Myna [*A. cinereus*]" (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

There was general agreement that the voice is undescribed; this state of affairs is slightly improved upon by Robson (2008): "Bouts of continuous, discordant, shrill chattering, incorporating some mimicry."

**Vinous-breasted Starling** *Sturnus burmannicus*

17+ bird-days. Noted W of Yingjiang on two dates.

**Black-collared Starling** *Sturnus nigricollis*

Four en route on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Asian Pied Starling** *Sturnus contra*

39 bird-days. Noted 'on the Burma border' on three dates.

**Blue Whistling Thrush** *Myophonus caeruleus*

27 bird-days. Noted on ten dates – a yellow-billed bird out on a lawn near Ruili on 9<sup>th</sup> was a treat: mostly a reclusive species!

**Black-breasted Thrush** *Turdus dissimilis*

177 bird-days. Noted on five dates - main event 162 on 20<sup>th</sup>!

\*\*\***Chinese Blackbird** *Turdus mandarinus*

A lingering singleton was 'scoped at Botanical Gardens on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Eyebrowed Thrush** *Turdus obscurus*

136+ bird-days. Noted on four dates.

\*\*\***Black-throated Thrush** *Turdus atrogularis*

Repeated 'scope views of a singleton (or were there two birds?) at Botanical Gardens on 29<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\***Red-throated Thrush** *Turdus ruficollis*

Three at Botanical Gardens on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Naumann's Thrush** *Turdus naumanni*

Heard at Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*In addition, 38+ individuals were recorded at Botanical Gardens on 29<sup>th</sup>. Most were ssp *naumanni*, but at least five were lingering ssp *eunomus* (and at least two were obvious intermediates).

**Green Cochoa** *Cochoa viridis*

One showed well near Tengchong on 20<sup>th</sup> - apparently previously unrecorded for the area.

**Lesser Shortwing** *Brachypteryx leucophrys*

Eight bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Bluethroat** *Luscinia svecica*

Singles on two dates.

**Siberian Rubythroat** *Luscinia calliope*

33 bird-days. Noted on seven dates – males were seen well on at least a couple of occasions, and one or two were singing.

**Black-throated Robin** *Luscinia obscura*

One adult male near Ruili on 11<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*'A bit of a Holy Grail for China birding' (J Hammar pers com) this individual unfortunately proved less than cooperative but at least everyone got to see both the Siberian Blue Robin *L. cyane* & the immature male White-bellied Redstart *Hodgsonius phaenicuroides* which were present in the same thicket!

\*\*\* <http://www.iucnredlist.org/apps/redlist/details/147445/0>

**Siberian Blue Robin** *Luscinia cyane*

One female-type near Ruili on 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Himalayan Red-flanked Bluetail** *Tarsiger rufilatus*

Seven bird-days. Noted on four dates.

\*\*\*"Sino-Himalayan *rufilatus* and N Asian *cyanurus* are widely disjunct in breeding ranges. Consistent differences in morphology and song-types over wide areas indicate they are better treated as separate species.": Rasmussen & Anderton (2005).

**Golden Bush Robin** *Tarsiger chrysaea*

Three bird-days. Singles were noted on three dates.

**Oriental Magpie-Robin** *Copsychus saularis*

34 bird-days. Noted on ten dates.

**Hodgson's Redstart** *Phoenicurus hodgsoni*

Four bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Daurian Redstart** *Phoenicurus aureus*

Five bird-days. Noted on just two dates.

**Blue-fronted Redstart** *Phoenicurus frontalis*

24 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

**White-bellied Redstart** *Hodgsonius phaenicuroides*

An immature male was seen on 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Plumbeous Redstart** *Rhyacornis fuliginosa*

18 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

**River Chat** *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*

16 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

**Little Forktail** *Enicurus scouleri*

One finally showed well on 23<sup>rd</sup> – a BINGO!

**Black-backed Forktail** *Enicurus immaculatus*

Seven bird-days. Seen on the Burma border on five dates.

**Slaty-backed Forktail** *Enicurus schistaceus*

Eight bird-days. Noted on six dates.

**Spotted Forktail** *Enicurus maculates*

Three bird-days. Noted on just two dates – ‘scoping one as it leaf-tossed in a poorly lit gully was...

**‘Siberian’ Common Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus*

52 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

\*\*\*Spp *maurus*, *przewalskii* & *stejnegeri* occur in China / Tibet. Dickinson (2003): “proposed splits of this complex species seem unsatisfactory if only in how the forms are ascribed to species”.

**Pied Bushchat** *Saxicola caprata*

22 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

**Grey Bushchat** *Saxicola ferreus*

Seven bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Blue Rock Thrush** *Monticola solitarius*

Two bird-days. Singles were noted on the Burma border on two dates.

**Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush** *Monticola rufiventris*

One male ‘scoped near Tengchong on 20<sup>th</sup>...

**Slaty-backed Flycatcher** *Ficedula hodgsonii*

Five bird-days. Noted on just two dates.

**Rufous-gorgetted Flycatcher** *Ficedula strophinata*

Six bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Red-throated Flycatcher** *Ficedula albicilla*

Singles on two dates.

**White-gorgetted Flycatcher** *Ficedula monileger*

Four bird-days. Noted on two dates – ‘we nearly saw one!': it sang hard but we ran out of daylight...

**Snowy-browed Flycatcher** *Ficedula hyperythra*

One male near the Burma border on 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula westermanni*

28 bird-days. Noted on nine dates – a male seen well on 17<sup>th</sup> was a trip highlight.

**Slaty-blue Flycatcher** *Ficedula tricolor*

Ten bird-days. Noted on six dates.

**Sapphire Flycatcher** *Ficedula sapphira*

Four bird-days. Noted on three dates W of Yingjiang - a male showing well on 13<sup>th</sup> was much appreciated.

**Asian Verditer Flycatcher** *Eumyias thalassinus*

11 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

**Pale Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis unicolor*

Four bird-days. Noted on three dates – three very satisfying encounters: 1) the 1<sup>st</sup> was a female: very satisfying to see it well enough to clinch the ID; 2) a male nearby the next day was obviously much more satisfying than that ‘could-have-been-anything’ female; and 3) two males (incl one both seen & heard singing) W of Yingjiang where not previously recorded!

**Hill Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis banyumas*

47 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

**Rufous-bellied Niltava** *Niltava sundara*

Six bird-days. Noted on three dates – good looks at both males & females.

**Large Niltava** *Niltava grandis*

31 bird-days. Noted on 11 dates.

**Small Niltava** *Niltava macgregoriae*

Five bird-days. Noted on three dates – one male deep in a dank gully on 13<sup>th</sup>...

**Grey-headed Flycatcher** *Culicicapa ceylonensis*

64 bird-days. Noted on 13 bird-days.

**Brown Dipper** *Cinclus pallasii*

12 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Golden-fronted Leafbird** *Chloropsis aurifrons*

Seven bird-days. Noted ‘on the Burma border’ on four dates.

**Orange-bellied Leafbird** *Chloropsis hardwickii*

46+ bird-days. This striking, vocal species was noted on no less than ten dates.

**Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum melanoxanthum*

22 bird-days. No less than 18 in a morning in Gaoligongshan - WOW!

**Plain Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum concolor*

A singleton was recorded ‘on the Burma border’ on three dates.

**Buff-bellied Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum ignipectum*

70 bird-days. Noted on 16 dates.

**Ruby-cheeked Sunbird** *Chalcoparia singalensis*

Outstanding views of four associating with a flock of ten Blyth’s Leaf Warblers near Ruili on 10<sup>th</sup>!

**Purple Sunbird** *Cinnyris asiaticus*

The only one ‘clinched’ was a female ‘near the Burma border’ on 15<sup>th</sup> [RR].

**Mrs. Gould’s Sunbird** *Aethopyga gouldiae*

24 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Green-tailed Sunbird** *Aethopyga nipalensis*  
26+ bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Black-throated Sunbird** *Aethopyga saturata*  
Six bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Crimson Sunbird** *Aethopyga siparaja*  
One male showed well near Ruili on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Fire-tailed Sunbird** *Aethopyga ignicauda*  
14 bird-days. Noted on three dates – main event 12 on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Little Spiderhunter** *Arachnothera longirostra*  
11 bird-days. This lowland species was noted on just five dates.

**Streaked Spiderhunter** *Arachnothera magna*  
125 bird-days. Noted on 12 dates.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*  
One male on the Burma border on 14<sup>th</sup> [TT].

**Russet Sparrow** *Passer rutilans*  
3+ near Tengchong on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*  
Not systematically recorded.

**Baya Weaver** *Ploceus philippinus*  
13 seen well near the Burma border on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**White-rumped Munia** *Lonchura striata*  
57 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

**Scaly-breasted Munia** *Lonchura punctulata*  
63 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

**Rufous-browed Accentor** *Prunella strophiate*  
Nice views of a singleton in Gaoligongshan on 21<sup>st</sup>.

\*\*\***Siberian Accentor** *Prunella montanella*  
Five bird-days. This sought-after Palearctic species was noted @ Beijing on both 6+29<sup>th</sup>.

**Maroon-backed Accentor** *Prunella immaculata*  
One in Gaoligongshan on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Eastern Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla tschutschensis*  
Three near Ruili on 8<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*Alstrom & Mild (2003) conclude that “[...] the Yellow Wagtail complex is probably most appropriately classified as two species also under the BSC” (p34). Retained in *M. flava* are *flavissima*, *flava*, *beema*, *thunbergi* (incl. *plexa*), *iberiae*, *cinereocapilla*, *pygmaea*, *feldegg*, *lutea* & *leucocephala*. This treatment was adopted by Rasmussen & Anderton (2005).



**Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola*  
14 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*  
26 bird-days. Noted on ten dates.

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*  
182+ bird-days. Noted on 13 dates.

\*\*\*Spp recorded were *leucopsis*, *ocularis* & *alboides*.

\*\*\*Alstrom & Mild (2003) concludes that various factors “suggest that the White Wagtail is best treated as a single species under the BSC”.

**Richard’s Pipit** *Anthus richardi*  
A singleton near Yingjiang on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Paddyfield Pipit** *Anthus rufulus*  
Four near Yingjiang on 19<sup>th</sup> – it was pleasing to see this largely resident species so well, and to hear it call repeatedly: the call isn’t even reminiscent of Richard’s!

**Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni*  
67 bird-days. Noted on 15 dates.

**Rosy Pipit** *Anthus roseus*  
102+ bird-days. Noted on four dates.

\*\*\*It is almost certain that c30 pipits seen en route N of Dali on 25<sup>th</sup> were also this species!

\*\*\***Buff-bellied Pipit** *Anthus rubescens*  
Three at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\***Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta*  
Four at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\***Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*  
110+ @ Botanical Gardens on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Tibetan Siskin** *Serinus thibetanus*  
c40 near Tengchong on 20<sup>th</sup> – prolonged ‘scope views for all: TINGALING!

\*\*\***Oriental Greenfinch** *Carduelis sinica*  
42+ bird-days: noted @ Beijing on both 6+29<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-headed Greenfinch** *Carduelis ambigua*  
Four near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\***Eurasian Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*  
Three at Botanical Gardens on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*  
16 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

\*\*\*In addition - super views of a female-type at Botanical Gardens on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Vinaceous Rosefinch** *Carpodacus vinaceus*

4-5 birds (incl two adult males) were 'scoped at Gaoligongshan on 23<sup>rd</sup> – WOW!

\*\*\*In addition, a finch seen in flight on 21<sup>st</sup> was probably also this species.

**Dark-rumped Rosefinch** *Carpodacus edwardsii*

Singletons were noted on two dates.

**Brown Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula nipalensis*

2+ heard on 24<sup>th</sup> – calling softly from a canopy more or less directly above the track but 'slipped out the back' before we got on to them...

\*\*\***Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Two at Botanical Gardens on 29<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\***Chinese Grosbeak** *Eophona migratoria*

Two showed well at Botanical Gardens on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Spot-winged Grosbeak** *Mycerobas melanozanthos*

A feeding group of c15 was scrutinized W of Yingjiang on 13<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\***Pine Bunting** *Emberiza leucocephalos*

Five bird-days – noted near Beijing on both 6+29<sup>th</sup>.

**Eastern Rock Bunting** *Emberiza godlewskii*

Three near Lijiang on both 26+27<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\***Tristram's Bunting** *Emberiza tristrami*

8+ at Botanical Gardens on 29<sup>th</sup> – with a bit of maneuvering superb views were had of this retiring species.

**Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla*

21 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

\*\*\*In addition, four at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellow-throated Bunting** *Emberiza elegans*

Five bird-days - noted both in Gaoligongshan & near Lijiang (& at Botanical gardens on 29<sup>th</sup>!).

**Black-faced Bunting** *Emberiza spodocephala*

Nine bird-days. Noted on four dates.

\*\*\***Pallas's Reed Bunting** *Emberiza pallasii*

36 at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup> – another Palearctic Mega!

\*\*\***Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*

29 at Wild Duck Lake on 6<sup>th</sup>.

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## MAMMALS

### **Northern Tree Shrew** *Tupaia belangeri*

One 'near the Burma border' on 15<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*Of the order *Scadentia*, which comprises 'five genera and 20 species' of which only one (of the 15 species in the genus *Tupaia*) occurs in China, Smith (2008) writes 'Few other taxa have proved to be as difficult to classify' – 'most recent treatments consider ['these squirrel-like animals'] most closely allied with Primates, *Dermoptera*, and *Chiroptera*'.

### \*\*\***Eurasian Red Squirrel** *Sciurus vulgaris*

2+ at Botanical Gardens on 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **Pallas' Squirrel** *Callosciurus erythraeus*

12+ animal-days. Noted on six dates.

### **Phayre's Squirrel** *Callosciurus phayrei*

Eight animal-days, involving four individuals 'on the Burma border'.

### **Anderson's (= Five-striped) Squirrel** *Callosciurus quinquestriatus*

Six animal-days. Noted on four dates 'on the Burma border'

### **Himalayan (=Western) Striped Squirrel** *Tamiops mccllellandii*

Singles identified on two dates 'on the Burma border'.

### \*\*\***Pere David's Rock Squirrel** *Sciurotamias davidianus*

2+ at Botanical Gardens on 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **Black Giant Squirrel** *Ratufa bicolor*

Six animal-days. This magnificent creature was noted on five dates.

### **Leopard Cat** *Prionailurus bengalensis*

GB came face-to-face with one 'near the Burma border' on 16<sup>th</sup>.