

Manchuria, Beijing & Shanxi, China: 20-30 Apr 2013

An at-a-glance list of 178 species of birds recorded.

By Jesper Hornskov ***this draft 1 Sep 2013*** ALL RIGHTS RESERVED ®

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 noted on a visit by B Dielissen, T Ford, I Robinson, P v d Wielen & myself to Manchuria & E-most Inner Mongolia in search of waterfowl, cranes & Jankowski's Bunting, very likely E Asia's most endangered species.

Having allowed for 'interesting' weather and difficulties in locating Jankowski's Bunting the visit was – as in 2011 & 2012 - a day longer than in 2010. For all of us, the trip presented an opportunity for some extra birdwatching at what is frequently a very rewarding time in E/NE China: everyone arrived in time to do a pre-tour, one-night-away excursion to Luliang Shan, Shanxi, for Brown Eared Pheasant *Crossoptilon mantchuricum* & the soon-to-be-split *lepidus* Long-tailed Rosefinch *Uragus sibiricus*, and on the morning of our departure for Manchuria we covered Beijing's Wild Duck Lake.

Birds seen by TF, IR & myself during eight pre-pre-tour days covering S Henan, NE Tibet & (again) Beijing's Wild Duck Lake are dealt with in a separate list, while the many birds seen by BD in a solo effort at Beidaihe will be dealt with by him in due course.

The pre-tour outings added 27 species to the 151 recorded in Manchuria; of these, 14 were seen only in Shanxi – 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 arrive early and/or extend their visit by a day or two, these are included in the list.

Thank you all for making this trip so enjoyable!

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In the species list the concept "bird-days" is used - it is the avian equivalent of man-hours, the day totals added up – it indicates relative abundance but does not consider the “problem” of lingering birds or, important in a non-scientific context such as a birding holiday abroad, how satisfying the encounters were. 25 bird-days for e.g. Spoon-billed Sandpiper could be one distant flock of migrating birds, gone in a flash, or one bird lingering for 25 days, offering the observers point-blank views anytime in that period...

The sequence of the bird list follows *The Howard and Moore Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World – 3rd Edition* (Dickinson 2003), in my opinion by far the most useful one-volume checklist to date.

Initials in brackets after some 'non-leader' sightings does not imply that I have doubts as to the correctness of the ID.

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Species list:

Daurian Partridge *Perdix dauurica*

Four bird-days. Noted on just two dates, incl two seen from the train (quite well, since you ask, but of course rather briefly).

***The species has no doubt suffered badly in the prolonged droughts – shorter visits in 2004 & 2005 yielded 18 & 15 bird-days, respectively, without resorting to spotting any from the train...

Japanese Quail *Coturnix japonica*

Three bird-days. Noted on two dates – one started singing at 11h15 on 24th, perhaps keeping quiet until then on account of the morning chill?

*****Brown Eared Pheasant** *Crossoptilon mantchuricum*

10+ bird-days. Noted on both days in Luliang Shan – on 21st it was great to see a pair 'joining in throw-head-back calling in response to another a pair calling unseen up above. Earlier we'd seen them feeding face-to-face: pair-bonding intimacy. One could sense their mutual affection!'

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

23 bird-days. Noted on six dates - the majority were heard-onlies, but we did see several males well...

***In addition, 26 bird-days in Luliang Shan, and ten at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Swan Goose *Anser cygnoides*

46 bird-days. Noted on five dates: a far sleeker & more graceful bird than anyone who has seen the domesticated variety would dare to hope...

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis serrirostris* & *A. f. middendorffii*

Noted on four dates – main event 3,300 on 25th, of which 285+ were ssp *middendorffii*.

***We couldn't help noticing that *middendorffii* was 'up-ending more: their long necks enable them to feed differently...'

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Ten bird-days. Noted on two dates.

Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Noted on four dates – main event 2,100 on 23rd.

Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus*

Four bird-days. Noted on just two dates.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

c250 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

***We came to the same conclusion as the 2009 & 2012 groups: eastern Bewick's has more yellow on the bill than those we like to consider ourselves more or less familiar with from N Europe / Britain although Eurasia (*vide* Dickinson 2003) is home to just one ssp, *bewickii*.

***BUT, BWP (Vol I, p385) states 'East Siberian population with larger bill, higher at base and wider near tip [compared with *bewickii*]; however, 'increase in bill size clinal, overlap large, and

size extremes may occur in all populations; so no justification for recognizing *jankowskii* [from Siberia E from the Lena delta at cE125*]’.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

87+ bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

14 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

12 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

***In addition, 19 at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

63 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

***In addition, 30 at Wild Duck lake on 22nd.

Falcated Duck *Anas falcata*

c43 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

***In addition, 55+ at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd - it was a trip highlight to ‘scope these at close-ish range in perfect light!

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*

12 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

***In addition, 15+ at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

70+ bird-days. Noted on six dates.

***In addition, two at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Chinese Spotbill *Anas zonorhyncha*

23 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

***In addition, three at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

41 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

***In addition, one at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

57 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Nine bird-days.

***In addition, eight at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Baikal Teal *Anas formosa*

46 bird-days. Noted on two dates.

Common Teal *Anas crecca*

270+ bird-days. Noted on six dates.

***In addition, c20 at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

1,820+ bird-days. Noted on five dates – main event 905 on 23rd.

***In addition, four at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

Two on 26th.

***In addition, seven seen well at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

121 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

***In addition, a pair at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

*****Greater Scaup** *Aythya marila*

One female at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

460+ bird-days. Noted on six dates – main event 370+ on 26th.

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

244 bird-days. Noted on four dates – main event 215 on 26th.

***In addition, two brownheads at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

81 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

13 bird-days. Noted on four dates - it was good to get views that allowed us to confirm that these birds had the white iris of ssp *poggei*, which also differs from the nominate in vocalizations...

***In addition, 10+ at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

*****Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena*

One coming into summer plumage at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd – very much a bonus bird anywhere in China!

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

c145 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

***In addition, 30+ at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

*****Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps auritus*

Two summer-plumaged adults calling & putting on a great show at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Seven bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Oriental White Stork *Ciconia boyciana*

11 bird-days. Noted four dates – at least six birds were involved, incl an obliging breeding pair.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

52 bird-days. Noted daily.

***Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor*, a species very unlikely to occur on the border of Inner Mongolia, was duly eliminated...

Eurasian Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

16+ bird-days. Noted on three dates – seen extremely well!

***In addition, three heard at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

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

Five at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

80+ bird-days. Noted daily.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

14+ bird-days. Noted on five dates.

***In addition, two at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

30 bird-days. Noted on six dates – main event 12 on 25th.

*****Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

One at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

101 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

***In addition, two at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*

One adult male on 27th.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Seven bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis*

29 bird-days. Noted on five dates – outstanding encounters included one male allowing close-up photography on 27th, and two males showing strong interest in a female near a couple of old nests on 28th.

***In addition, one adult male migr at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

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

Two immature males at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Saker *Falco cherrug*

One [BD, PvdW] photographed on 27th.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

One on 26th.

***In addition, two – an immature male and an immature female: eventually hunting in tandem, catching what was probably an Asian Short-toed Lark - at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Four bird-days. Noted on two dates.
***In addition, four at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

One on 26th.

Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*

One seen repeatedly on 27th.

***The species was not listed for Inner Mongolia by Zheng *et al.* (2005), but we saw two in the same area in May 2012.

Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus*

16 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

***In addition, five (three males & two 2nd c-y) at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Singles on two dates.

Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos*

Four bird-days. Noted on two dates – on 28th two females migr early, followed by an adult male at 07h22, then the next day another adult male seen well as it quartered over the perimeter of the reserve: TINGALING!

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Three bird-days. Singles noted on three dates.

***In addition, two in Luliang Shan on 21st & one female at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Eastern Buzzard *Buteo (buteo) japonicus*

Singles on two dates.

***In addition, one 2nd c-y bird at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

***In the recommended field guide for this trip - Brazil (2009) – *japonicus* is given full species status.

Upland Buzzard *Buteo hemilasius*

One 'scoped as it headed NW on 24th, allowing us instructive views of the tail & upperwing of this lumbering grassland specialist: jizz highly distinctive.

*****Greater Spotted Eagle** *Aquila clanga*

One [BD, PvdW] at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Great Bustard *Otis tarda*

25+ (possibly 42!) on 24th – seeing males do their famous inside-out, fluff-of-feathers display was a dream come true!

Common Coot *Fulica atra*

62 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

***In addition, c200 at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Siberian Crane *Leucogeranus leucogeranus*

We visited the key staging area three times – not only is Sibe Crane worth looking at more than once (obviously!), it's an important site for a number of species – and counted as many as 1,915 birds in a day.

***One does get close-up views of the Siberian Cranes on their staging grounds in NE China - seeing some of them close, enjoying the spectacle of them as they feed intensely in bright spring sunshine - refuelling for the next stage of their epic journey N to the tundra - and engage in show-off 'test flights' (testing the breeze, testing their fitness). They also do plenty of displaying: dancing & bugling, tossing bits of mud-sticky vegetation.

Seeing Siberian Cranes in Manchuria is in my opinion a far better experience than visiting their winter haunts on the Yangtze where they - in no small part due to wariness caused by human disturbance - tend to be distant, and where attempts at seeing them are always in danger of being wrong-footed by frequent settled, foggy weather.

White-naped Crane *Grus vipio*

Five bird-days. Noted on three dates – one in flight along the Sibe Crane lakeshore on 25th, and a singleton paired-up with a Red-crowned Crane, allowing us extended viewing at reasonable range in soft afternoon light.

Common Crane *Grus grus*

21 bird-days. Noted on two dates.

Red-crowned Crane *Grus japonensis*

Nine bird-days. Three individuals noted on three dates – it was rather bizarre to be seen off by an extremely territorial bird.

Korean Oystercatcher *Haematopus osculans*

Singles on two dates.

****vide* Inskipp *et al.* (2011) split from *H. ostralegus*. Although only *osculans* was listed for China by Cheng (1987) & Zheng *et al* (2005) there can be little doubt that birds in Xinjiang are *longipes* of 'C USSR', wintering 'on the coast of Middle East, India & Sri Lanka' & 'occurs more rarely southwards to E Africa, but has reached S Africa': Hayman *et al.* (1986).

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

244+ bird-days. Noted daily.

***In addition, 18 at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Pied Avocet *Recurvirosta avosetta*

12 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

235+ bird-days. Noted daily.

***In addition, one en route in Shanxi on 21st & seven at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus*

46 bird-days. This charismatic species was seen (and heard!) daily.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

39 bird-days. Noted daily.

***In addition, six at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

19 bird-days. Noted on two dates.

***In addition, two at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Pintail Snipe *Gallinago stenura*

One on 25th.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

25 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

***In addition, four at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Western Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Seven bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Eastern Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa (limosa) melanuroides*

10,000+ bird-days. Noted on five dates – main event an impressive c5,000 on 23rd.

***Eastern Black-tailed Godwit is “a small and dark version of ‘Western’, with a similarly patterned but slimmer, shorter bill, a small but more prominent whitish supercilium between darker crown and eye-stripe.[...] Much less sexually dimorphic than ‘Western’. Breeding male has darker chestnut head, neck, breast and sides, with closer-spaced, finer blackish barring on underparts, including vent, than breeding male ‘Western’, and more heavily black-blotched upperparts with broader golden or rufous edgings. Breeding female usually somewhat duller. Non-breeding adult is essentially dark grey with white lower underparts; darker grey than non-breeding ‘Western’[...]. Juvenile is shorter-billed than adult; has weaker cinnamon tinge than juvenile ‘Western’, finely notched dark-and-golden scapular- and tertial-edges, barring not streaking on flanks, and looks all-dark above as tertials and mantle feathers wear. [...] distinct white wing-stripe and rump somewhat narrower than than in ‘Western’”: Rasmussen & Anderton (2005).

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

21 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Nine bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

15+ bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

105 bird-days. Noted daily.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

One on 25th.

***In addition, two at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

24+ bird-days. Noted on three dates.

***In addition, one heard at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

One on 29th.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

15 bird-days. Noted on two dates.

***In addition, three at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

One on 23rd.

Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum*

15 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

***In addition, 89+ at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd, incl 85 heading off NE after hawking about all morning...

Common Gull *Larus canus*

c175 bird-days. Noted on six dates – most were fairly distant (incl a migrating flock of 75 on 24th) but both spp *heinei* & *kamtschatschensis* were positively identified.

'Yellow-legged' Gull *Larus (cachinnans) mongolicus*

Five bird-days. 2nd c-y birds were identified on three dates.

Heuglin's Gull *Larus heuglini taimyrensis*

12 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

****taimyrensis* was considered a synonym (of *heuglini*) by Dickinson (2003) who did not follow the trend of elevating Heuglin's Gull to full species status.

***"**Large White-headed Gull**" *L. cachinnans* / *L. heuglini* / *L. vegae*

15 bird-days. Noted on two dates.

Common Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

3,000+ bird-days. Noted six dates. Main event 1,600 on 24th.

***In addition, 50+ at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

14+ bird-days. Noted on four dates.

***In addition, one at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Blue Hill Pigeon *Columba rupestris*

One on 27th.

Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*

43 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

***In addition, 1-2 daily in Luliang Shan, and one at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Five bird-days. Noted on three dates.

***In addition, four at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

*****Spotted Dove** *Streptopelia chinensis*

2-3 daily in Shanxi, and one at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Eurasian Eagle-Owl *Bubo bubo*

Two seen and photographed [BD, PvdW] on 27th.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Five bird-days. Noted on three dates.

****Ssp plumiceps* may merit full species status: R Klim pers. com.

Common Swift *Apus apus pekinensis*

Two on 28th - it was pleasing to obtain decent views of this distinctive taxon.

***In addition, one at Taiyuan, Shanxi, on 20th.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

One on 26th.

***In addition, four at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

30 bird-days. Noted daily.

***In addition, two in Luliang Shan on 20th & 7+ at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Northern Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Two on 29th.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

One female photographed [BD, PvdW] on 27th.

***Presumably *ssp amurensis*, which Zheng *et al.* (2005) listed for Heilongjiang, E Jilin, C Liaoning, S Gansu, and NE & S Inner Mongolia.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Six bird-days. Noted on three dates.

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

Five bird-days. Noted in Luliang Shan on both 20+21st.

Ashy Minivet *Pericrocotus divaricatus*

Singletons on both 26+28th.

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

Two heard in Luliang Shan on 21st.

Chinese Grey Shrike *Lanius sphenocercus*

20 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

***In addition, four at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Eastern Azure-winged Magpie *Cyanopica cyanus*

One on 26th.

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

17 bird-days - this dignified, Bird of Paradise class beauty proved quite common in Luliang Shan over 20+21st.

Common Magpie *Pica pica*

Common – not systematically recorded.

*****Eurasian Nutcracker** *Nucifraga caryocatactes*

15 bird-days in Shanxi over 20+21st.

***Local breeders are ssp *interdicta*, very different-looking from Siberian *macrorhynchos*.

Daurian Jackdaw *Corvus dauuricus*

161 bird-days. Noted daily – both attractive, pied adults & all-black, dark-iris'd 2nd c-y birds were seen well (and photographed at point-plank range!).

***In addition, 15 2nd c-y birds briefly up on wires at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

228+ bird-days. Noted on five dates.

***ssp *pastinator* differs from the nominate in lacking 'bare chalky white facial skin [...] and has a more sharply pointed bill': Brazil (2009).

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Six bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulous*

One on 26th.

'Eastern' Great Tit *Parus minor*

One on 27th.

***In addition, four daily in Luliang Shan over 2-+21st.

Yellow-bellied Tit *Parus venustulus*

13 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

***In addition, two in Luliang Shan on 21st, and no fewer than c45 at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

***Neither Harrap & Quinn (1996) nor Zheng *et al.* (2005) included the species for Manchuria, but there are at least three previous May records (in 2005, 2011 & 2012: JH *et al.* pers obs).

Nearest 'known' site is N Hebei (where it is a regular migrant in good numbers: JH pers. obs.).

*****Coal Tit** *Parus ater*

Two in Luliang Shan on 21st.

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*

Two on 27th.

***In addition, one in Luliang Shan on 21st.

*****Songar Tit** *Parus songarus stotzneri*

Nine bird-days in Luliang Shan over 20+21st.

***Note that of the several Songar Tit ssp maybe only *weigoldicus* merits full species status (the rest are now lumped back in with Willow Tit *Parus montanus* by e g IOC).

'Chinese' Penduline Tit *Remiz consobrinus*

Five bird-days. Noted on just two dates.

***In addition, two migr at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

215+ bird-days. Noted daily.

***In addition, five en route in Shanxi on 20th.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

17+ bird-days. Noted daily from 27th.

*****Silver-throated' Tit** *Aegithalos glaucogularis vinaceus*

Four heard-onlies in Luliang Shan on 21st.

***^IOC, following HBW, elevates the taxa *vinaceus* & *glaucogularis* to full species status as 'Silver-throated Bushtit' *Aegithalos glaucogularis* - as recently as 2008, however, the notion of *vinaceus* as a possible split was firmly booh'd by group members.

Mongolian Lark *Melanocorypha mongolica*

12 on 24th – what a bird!

*****Greater Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla*

12 at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Asian Short-toed Lark *Calandrella cheleensis*

12 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

***In addition, three at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

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

*****Fan-tailed Warbler** *Cisticola juncidis*

Six at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Chinese Hill Warbler *Rhopophilus pekinensis*

Six bird-days. Noted on four dates – one memorable encounter was one 'sitting right out' at 04h45 (it soon reverted to its usual, skulky behavior!

We concluded that 'MacKinnon & Phillipps renamed this attractive endemic species 'White-browed Chinese Warbler' on account of it showing absolutely no trace of a white eyebrow'.

***In addition, 21 bird-days in Luliang Shan (main event 18 on 21st), and four at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

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

Four at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

Six bird-days. Noted on three dates.

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

One heard in Luliang Shan on 21st.

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*

One [PvdW] on 28th.

Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

12+ bird-days. Noted on three dates.

***In addition, 19 in Luliang Shan on 21st.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

75+ bird-days. Noted on three dates – main event 60+ in a fall on 28th.

***In addition, one in Luliang Shan on 21st.

*****Hume's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus humei mandellii*

Two in Luliang Shan on 21st.

***Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) treats both ssp as full species, noting that "although the call of *mandellii* is markedly different from [nominate] *humei*, the whistled songs of both taxa are variable and often inseparable. While *mandellii* is genetically closer to *humei* than to *inornatus*, it is long-separated from either according to mtDNA (Irwin *et al.* 2001); its status as a full species thus remains equivocal."

***Nominate *humei* occurs in E China only as a vagrant.

Pere David's Laughingthrush *Garrulax davidi*

Two heard singing on 27th.

***In addition, 48 bird-days in Luliang Shan over 20+21st – several were seen well!

***[?**Streak-throated Fulvetta** *Alcippe cinereiceps*

A bird heard singing briefly in the distance at Luliang Shan on 21st was thought to be this species.

***ssp *fessa* is known for nowhere nearer than S Shaanxi...]

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

19+ bird-days. Noted daily in Luliang Shan over 20+21st, and at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Two on 27th.

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

Five in Luliang Shan on 21st, including a pair nesting in the stone structure of a building!

***None had been seen on previous visits...

White-cheeked Starling *Sturnus cineraceus*

52 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

***In addition, four at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Red-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis*

One very poorly marked individual on 28th... on 7 May 2011, seeing 'an adult male was somewhat unexpected – though it really shouldn't have been, given that the species is reasonably common at e.g. Beijing from October well into April.'

***In addition, nine at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Naumann's Thrush *Turdus naumanni*

One [BD, PvdW] on 27th.

***In addition, two (one *eunomus* & one intergrade) at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

***Extensive interbreeding (a high proportion of birds @ Beijing & Beidaihe are intermediate: JH pers obs) disqualifies the two taxa from full species status under the BSC.

Northern Red-flanked Bluetail *Luscinia cyanura*

12 bird-days. Noted on three dates – a full-blown adult male on 29th was a highlight!

Daurian Redstart *Phoenicurus auroreus*

Six bird-days. Noted on two dates.

***In addition, 21 bird-days in Luliang Shan over 20+21st.

'Siberian' Stonechat *Saxicola 'torquatus'*

15 bird-days. Noted on five 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", and (still) NOT elevated to full species status by e.g. Svensson *et al.* (2009), who treated 'Eastern Stonechat' as a subspecies group under 'Common Stonechat' and dealt with it in a separate account only 'for practical reasons'.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*

One seen singing at dawn on 27th.

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka*

Seven on 27th.

***Hearing one doing imitations of the song of Crested Lark *Galerida cristata* was as close as we got to that species... Other recognizable mimicry included Asian Short-toed Lark, and Citrine & White Wagtails.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Common – not systematically recorded.

Siberian Accentor *Prunella montanella*

Two on 27th!

Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis*

Six bird-days. Noted on just two dates.

***In addition, 2+ at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*

Five bird-days. Noted on two dates.

***In addition, three at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

***That the very attractive, black-backed ssp *calcarata* has occurred is an additional reason – not that anyone should feel that one is needed! - to look long and hard at any Citrine Wagtail encountered: Zheng *et al.* (2005) listed *calcarata* only for Qinghai, W Xinjiang, S Gansu, Xizang, E & S Yunnan & Sichuan, but we saw one at Xianghai reserve on 10 May 2005.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Eight bird-days. Noted on two dates – main event seven on 26th.

***In addition, 2+ daily in Luliang Shan over 20+21st.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

22 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

***In addition, one in Luliang Shan on 21st, and seven at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

23 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

***In addition, four in Luliang Shan on 21st, and four at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

One on 29th.

Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens*

Four bird-days. Noted on three dates.

***In addition, c110 at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

c48 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

***In addition, 9+ in Luliang Shan on 21st, and three migr at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Oriental Greenfinch *Carduelis sinica*

Four bird-days. Noted on two dates.

***In addition, 28 bird-days in Luliang Shan over 20+21st, and two at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Eurasian Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Three on 28th.

***In addition, one daily in Luliang Shan over 20+21st.

*****Long-tailed Rosefinch** *Uragus sibiricus lepidus*

69 bird-days. Noted only in Luliang Shan – right up there with Sibe Crane & Jankowski's Bunting on the scale of highlights males of this distinctive and very, very pretty taxon proved obliging in a low key sort of way, with a simple song that somehow fit the Chinese Painting landscape perfectly.

*****Chinese Beautiful Rosefinch** *Carpodacus davidianus*

12 in Luliang Shan on 21st.

'Eurasian Bullfinch' *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

One ssp *cinerecea* bird seen extremely well on 27th – a pleasant surprise!

***Dickinson (2003): “[...] this is a “ring species” with overlap. Treated as three species (*pyrrhula* [represented in China by the nominate form at least in Altai: JH pers. obs.], *cineracea* & *griseiventris*) by Stepanyan (1990)”.

***Cheng (1987) treated *cineracea* & *griseiventris* as conspecific (and considered both only winter visitors to China), and listed both *cassini* & nominate *pyrrhula* as occurring in Manchuria, as a winter visitor and a migrant, respectively (citing Vaurie as a source for the latter).

***Clement *et al.* (1993) considered “race *griseiventris* also [to comprise] former races *rosacea* & *kurilensis*”; the latter is not accepted by Dickinson, either.

***Zheng *et al.* (2005) treated *cineracea* & *griseiventris* as ‘Oriental Bullfinch’ *P. griseiventris*, listing the former for Heilongjiang, Jilin, Liaoning & NE Inner Mongolia.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

16 bird-days. Noted on three dates – main event 11 on 29th.

***In addition, five in Luliang Shan on 21st.

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

Two in Luliang Shan on 21st.

Eastern Rock Bunting *Emberiza godlewskii*

One on 27th.

***In addition, ten in Luliang Shan on 21st.

Meadow Bunting *Emberiza cioides*

Mammals

Sequence and taxonomy follows "A Guide to the Mammals of China", Smith & Xie (ed.) 2008.

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

Five in Shanxi on both 20+21st.

Daurian Ground Squirrel *Spermophilus dauricus*

Six animal-days. Noted on three dates.

*****Hare sp** *Lepus sp*

Two in Luliang Shan on 21st, and one at Wild Duck Lake on 22nd.

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*

One on 23rd.