

Xishuangbanna, Yunnan, China: 4-16 Mar 2014.

An at-a-glance list of 221 species of birds & three species of mammals.

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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 on my field notes this brief write-up covers the birds and mammals seen on an early spring escape from Beijing with my wife, Sun Aiqin.

On arrival at Jinghong airport we were taken to Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Gardens [XTBG] where we stayed in a small hotel just outside (the gardens being popular with mostly domestic tourists there are plenty to choose from; the hotel inside the gardens was undergoing renovation at the time of our visit) until moving on (with WXM & GBJ) to Mengsong for two nights, and finally had a full day in Jinghong (two overnights) before returning to Beijing on an early morning flight.

XTBG proved such an enjoyable place to be based that we were quite dismayed at having taken so long to 'discover' it: this was our 3rd visit to Xishuangbanna.

We are most grateful for the help and inspiration offered by Steve Bale & Tong Menxiu, and for the hands-on help, company in the field & hospitality given by Wang Ximin, WXY, Luo Aidong, Zhao Jiangbo & Gu Bojian.

Xishuangbanna can be over-run by domestic visitors especially during Chinese holidays. Outside those holidays – even over Christmas – some hotels offer considerable discounts, at least in Jinghong. Numerous taxis cruise the streets of Jinghong, and using a local map – available in some hotels - it is easy to arrange transportation to wherever you want to go.

I would say that Xishuangbanna is a worthwhile and affordable place to go on a family holiday if you are already in China, but in terms of birds-for-your-money keen birders are advised to give it low priority: it is not as exciting as, say, W-most Yunnan (Ruili, Gaoligongshan, Tengchong etc), and not only because rampant poaching ensures that there are generally fewer birds around than one would expect.

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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, far from unimportant 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).

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Species list:

Bar-backed Hill Partridge *Arborophila brunneopectus*

Two seen poorly at Nangongshan on 7th.

***In addition, unidentified Hill Partridges were heard there also on 7+11th.

Mountain Bamboo Partridge *Bambusicola fytchii*

One at Mengsong on 13th.

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*

12 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

Silver Pheasant *Lophura nychtemera*

11+ bird-days at Nangongshan: six (incl three females flushed) on 7th & 5+ (one male & two females glimpsed) in the same exact spot on 9th.

Grey Peacock Pheasant *Polyplectron bicalcaratum*

One heard at Nangongshan on 11th.

Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus*

Five bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

One at Botanical Gardens on 4th.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

One en route back to Jinghong on 15th.

Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

One at Mengsong on 14th.

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

One hunting the Mengsong fields on 14th.

Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela*

Nine bird-days. Noted on eight dates – main event two (an immature & an adult separately) at XTBG on 10th.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

One 2nd c-y at Mengsong on 13th.

***The species is a rare to scarce winter visitor to nearby N Laos: Robson (2008).

Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*

Singles at Nangongshan on 9th, at XTBG ('circling out to NW; later doing wing-rustling display') on 12th & at Mengsong (w/ prey) on 15th.

Besra *Accipiter virgatus*

One at Nangongshan on 9th.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

One 2nd c-y female at Mengsong on 14th.

*****Sparrowhawk sp.**

Two (an adult & a 2nd c-y separately) at XTBG on 12th.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Five bird-days. Noted on three dates – main event three en route between Jinghong and XTBG on 4th. One soaring at Mengsong Dam on 15th appeared to be ssp *vulpinus*, a taxon not included for SE Asia by Robson (2008) but identified on five occasions in W Yunnan (JH pers obs).

***ssp *japonicus* is accepted as a full species, 'Eastern Buzzard', by e.g. IOC (2015).

Black-tailed Crake *Porzana bicolor*

At Mengsong one on 13th & four (two heard-onlies & two seen together) on 15th.

Pintail Snipe *Gallinago stenura*

Singles at Mengsong on both 13+14th.

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

Two at Tropical Plants & Flowers Garden, Jinghong, on 16th.

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*

Six bird-days. Noted on three dates – main event three at Mengsong on 14th.

Mountain Imperial Pigeon *Ducula badia*

Five bird-days. 1-2 daily at Nangongshan on 7+9+11th.

Finsch's Parakeet *Psittacula finschii*

One perched in a kapok tree at XTBG on 5th.

Large Hawk-Cuckoo *Cuculus sparveroides*

Eight bird-days. Noted on three dates - just one at XTBG, on 10th...

Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus*

Perhaps the same singleton heard at Nangongshan on 7+9+11th.

Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii*

19 bird-days. Noted on eight dates – most were heard-onlies...

Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus*

Nine bird-days. Noted at XTBG on six dates – most were heard-onlies...

Asian Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx maculatus*

One male at XTBG on 10th – amazingly, the two *Chrysococcyx* perched just two meters apart SW of my vantage point at 10h55, flying off together ‘still in good light’ ten minutes later.

Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*

One male at XTBG on 10th – ‘looked blackish velvet w/ coral-pink bill when perched, and glowing violet as it flew off still in good light.’

Square-tailed Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris*

13 bird-days. Noted on seven dates at XTBG & Nangongshan.

Common Koel *Eudynamis scolopaceus*

One at Tropical Flowers & Plants Garden, Jinghong, on 16th.

Green-billed Malkoha *Rhopodytes tristis*

Three bird-days – one at Nangongshan on 7th & two at XTBG on 12th.

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*

15 bird-days. Noted on six dates at XTBG.

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*

16 bird-days. Noted on nine dates, incl at Mengsong (one on 13th) & at Tropical Flowers & Plants Garden, Jinghong (two on 16th).

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

One heard at XTBG on 5th.

Collared Scops Owl *Otus lettia*

11 bird-days. Noted on five dates – main event six heard at XTBG on 6th. The only one noted at Nangongshan was one calling at 09h20 on 11th.

Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei*

14 bird-days. 4-5 daily at Nangongshan on 7+9+11th (incl one seen well & photographed on 9th).

Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides*

18 bird-days. Noted on ten dates.

Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus jotaka*

One at Nangongshan on 11th.

Himalayan Swiftlet *Aerodramus brevirostris*

Two at XTBG on 8th.

White-vented Needletail *Hirundapus cochinchinensis*

At XTBG one on 6th, six on both 8+12th & three on 10th.

****vide* WXM these were the 1st records of this species at XTBG.

Asian Palm Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis*

310+ bird-days. Noted on nine dates.

Cook's Swift *Apus cooki*

47 bird-days – noted at XTBG on four dates: main event 25 seen well on 8th.

House Swift *Apus nipalensis*

115+ bird-days. Noted on seven dates, incl at Jinghong on 16th.

Red-headed Trogon *Harpactes erythrocephalus*

Two heard at Nangongshan on 11th.

White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*

One en route back to Jinghong on 15th.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Five bird-days. Singles were noted on five dates, incl at Tropical Plants & Flowers Garden, Jinghong, on 16th.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

One at Tropical Plants & Flowers Garden, Jinghong, on 16th.

Great Barbet *Megalaima virens*

21 bird-days. Noted on seven dates – main event eight at Nangongshan on 7th.

Golden-throated Barbet *Megalaima franklinii*

22 bird-days. Noted at Nangongshan on three dates – main event 15 on 11th.

Blue-throated Barbet *Megalaima asiatica*

122 bird-days. Noted on 13 dates.

Blue-eared Barbet *Megalaima australis*

Heard-onlies at Nangongshan: two on 9th & one on 11th.

Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala*
22 bird-days. Noted on seven dates at XTBG & at Jinghong.

Northern Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*
One showing well at XTBG on 13th.

Speckled Piculet *Picumnus innominatus*
11 bird-days. 3-4 daily at Nangongshan & one heard at Mengsong on 14th.

White-browed Piculet *Sasia ochracea*
Three bird-days at Mengsong: two on 14th & one on 15th.

Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos canicapillus*
Six bird-days - 1-3 daily at Nangongshan on 7+9+11th.

Stripe-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos atratus*
One at Nangongshan on 11th.

Lesser Yellownape *Picus chlorolophus*
Seven bird-days. 1-3 daily at Nangongshan on 7+9+11th – all but one were heard-onlies.
***In addition, one Yellownape sp. at Nangongshan on 7th.

Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus*
Three bird-days at Nangongshan: one heard on 7th & two seen on 9th.

Greater Goldenback *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*
One heard at XTBG on 6th.

Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*
Five bird-days at Nangongshan: one heard on 9th & four (of which three were heard-onlies) on 11th.

*****Woodpecker sp.**
Singles heard drumming at XTBG on both 5+6th.

Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae*
5+ bird-days. Heard-onlies noted on three dates – at XTBG on 6+8th & at Nangongshan on 9th.

Blue-naped Pitta *Pitta nipalensis*
One heard at XTBG on 8th.

Rusty-naped Pitta *Pitta oatesi*
One heard at Nangongshan on 11th.

Blue-winged Pitta *Pitta moluccensis*

Two singing at Nangongshan on 9th – just one seen briefly in flight...

Large Woodshrike *Tephrodornis virgatus*

Six bird-days – one at XTBG on 10th, and five at c1,550m at Nangongshan on 11th.

Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*

19 bird-days. Noted at XTBG on four dates (main event nine on 5th) & at Jinghong on 16th.

Great Iora *Aegithina lafresnayei*

17 bird-days. Noted at XTBG on four dates – main event ten on 6th.

Large Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina macei*

Six bird-days at Nangongshan: two on 7th & four on 11th.

Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina melaschistos*

15 bird-days. Noted at XBGT & Nangongshan on eight dates.

Short-billed Minivet *Pericrocotus brevirostris*

33 bird-days. Noted on four dates – main event a flock of 24 heading N at XTBG on 10th, landing twice for an instant.

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus*

49 bird-days. Noted on eight dates – 1-7 on five dates at XTBG & 5-14 daily at Nangongshan on 7+9+11th.

*****Minivet sp.**

15 at Nangongshan on 11th.

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus picatus*

Nine bird-days: singles at XTBG on 5+12th & seven at Nangongshan on 9th.

***the one on 5th was ‘advertise-calling in the top of a lone tree but getting no response...’

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*

One in XTBG on 12th.

Burmese Shrike *Lanius colluriooides*

Three bird-days – singles both at XTBG & Mengsong on 13th, and at Tropical Flowers & Plants Garden, Jinghong, on 16th.

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*

Four bird-days. Noted on just three dates...

Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus*

One – seen both perched & in flight - at Mengsong on 15th.

*****Shrike sp.**

Singles heard at XTBG on both 10+13th.

Maroon Oriole *Oriolus traillii*

76 bird-days. Noted on six dates – main event 31 at Nangongshan on 7th. Only noted at XTBG on 8th – two birds, incl a female heading N.

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*

28 bird-days. Noted on nine dates – at Nangongshan only noted on 9th, with five birds...

Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus*

29 bird-days. Noted on four dates – two at XTBG on 5th, and 7-10 daily at Nangongshan on 7+9+11th.

Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer*

Five bird-days: 1-2 daily at Nangongshan on 7+9+11th.

Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*

One at Mengsong on 15th.

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*

Four at Nangongshan on 11th.

White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis*

28 bird-days. Noted on 12 dates.

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*

25 bird-days. Noted on six dates – main event eight at Nangongshan on 11th.

Red-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*

Six bird-days. Noted on just four dates – two at XTBG on 8th, at Mengsong one heard on 14th & two on 15th, and one at Tropical Flowers & Plants Garden, Jinghong, on 16th.

Grey Treepie *Dendrocitta formosae*

One at Nangongshan on 11th.

'Eastern' Great Tit *Parus minor*

16 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

***Although the literature (e.g. Harrap & Quinn 1996) mostly assigns all Yunnan Great Tits to the *minor* group - *subtibetanus* except in the NE where *commixtus* (may) occur (Zheng 2005) – Harrap & Quinn (1996) state that *commixtus* occur only 'E of Yunnan', speculating that the form is 'perhaps of hybrid origin, connecting the *cinereus* and *minor* groups' - calls heard [@ Jinghong in 2006: JH] included one never heard at Kunming or Ruili, suggesting perhaps a member of *cinereus* group.

ssp. templorum – of NE Thailand, S Laos & S Vietnam (Harrap & Quinn 1996) – appears to be the only candidate if a form of *cinereus* is involved.

Yellow-cheeked Tit *Parus sibilans*

Three bird-days. Noted only at Nangongshan – two on 7th & one on 11th.

Grey-throated Sand Martin *Riparia chinensis*

Two flying N at XTBG on 10th.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

97+ bird-days. Noted on ten dates.

Dusky Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne concolor*

Five bird-days. Noted at XTBG on two dates – one on 10th & four on 12th.

****vide* WXM these were the 1st records of this species at XTBG.

Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus*

18 bird-days. Noted at XTBG on two dates – six on 6th & 12 on 8th.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

28 bird-days. Noted at XTBG on six dates.

Striated Swallow *Cecropis striolata*

21 bird-days. Noted on six dates at XTBG, Nangongshan & at Mengsong.

Hill Prinia *Prinia superciliaris*

19 bird-days. Noted on four dates – one heard singing at Nangongshan on 11th, and 3-10 daily at Mengsong over 13-15th.

Grey-breasted Prinia *Prinia hodgsonii*

19 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata*

12 bird-days. Noted on three dates – one along the river at XTBG on 8th, and at Mengsong eight on 14th & three on 15th.

Mountain Tailorbird *Orthomus cucullatus*

Ten bird-days at Mengsong – four on 13th & six on 15th.

Common Tailorbird *Orthomus sutorius*

95 bird-days. Noted on ten dates at XTBG, Nangongshan & at Jinghong.

Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthomus atrogularis*

17 bird-days. Noted on seven dates – only one away from XTBG: at Nangongshan on 9th.

Striated Bulbul *Pycnonotus striatus*

5+ bird-days. Noted at Nangongshan on 7+11th.

Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus melanicterus*

28 bird-days. Noted on seven dates - only two away from XTBG: at Nangongshan on 9th.

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*

140+ bird-days. Noted on nine dates.

Brown-breasted Bulbul *Pycnonotus xanthorrhous*

Eight at Mengsong on 15th.

Sooty-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster*

64 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

Flavescent Bulbul *Pycnonotus flavescens*

23 bird-days. Noted on three dates – seven at Nangongshan on 11th, and at Mengsong five on 13th & 11 on 15th.

Puff-throated Bulbul *Criniger pallidus*

30 bird-days. Noted on eight dates at XTBG & Nangongshan.

Grey-eyed Bulbul *Iole propinqua*

39 bird-days. 5-23 daily at Nangongshan on 7+9+11th.

Mountain Bulbul *Ixos mcclellandii*

Four at Nangongshan on 7th.

Ashy Bulbul *Hemixos flavala*

59+ bird-days. 10-28 daily at Nangongshan on 7+9+11th.

Black Bulbul *Hypsietes leucocephalus*

25+ bird-days. Noted on five dates: six at XTBG on 5th, 4+-9 daily at Nangongshan (incl a mixed flock of four black- & five white-headed birds on 9th), and just two at Mengsong (on 14th).

Striated Warbler *Megalurus palustris*

36 bird-days: 9-17 daily at Mengsong over 13-15th.

Chestnut-headed Tesia *Oligura castaneocoronata*

Singles heard calling at XTBG on 5th & at Nangongshan on 9th.

Slaty-bellied Tesia *Tesia olivea*

One heard singing at Mengsong on 14th.

Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler *Cettia fortipes*

Noted only at Mengsong: one on 13th & five on 15th.

Russet Bush Warbler *Bradypterus mandelli*

30 bird-days. 4-15 daily at Mengsong over 13-15th – most were heard-only songsters but with a bit of determination several proved see-able.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

11 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

Buff-barred Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus pulcher*

One at Mengsong on 14th.

Chinese Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus yunnanensis*

11 bird-days. Noted on seven dates – main event four at Nangongshan on 9th, incl a wonderfully cooperative individual which called only intermittently but allowed itself to be photographed as it fed in roadside bamboo (becoming *vide* LAD Xishuangbanna's 1st 'proven' (i.e. photo-documented) individual)...

Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

11 bird-days. Noted on four dates – three daily at Nangongshan on 7+9+11th & two at Mengsong on 14th.

'Eastern' Lemon-rumped Warbler *Phylloscopus forresti*

Four bird-days. Noted on three dates at Nangongshan & Mengsong.

***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' (used by e.g. IOC (2015)) 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*

88 bird-days. Noted on 12 dates.

Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei mandellii*

Nine bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

***IOC (2015) treats *humei* & *mandellii* as conspecific, without comment.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

Five bird-days. Noted only at XTBG – three on 4th & two on 5th.

Claudia's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus claudiae*

85 bird-days. Noted on ten dates – main event 20 at Nangongshan on 11th.

Ogilvie-Grant's (=Kloss') Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus ogilviegranti*

91 bird-days. Noted daily at both Nangongshan (main event 29 on 11th) & Mengsong (highest count 24 on 14th).

***Formerly considered conspecific with ‘White-tailed Leaf Warbler’ *P. davisoni*.

Yellow-vented Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus cantator*

Eight bird-days – probably the same two individuals singing strongly at XTBG daily on 6+8+10+12th.

Grey-crowned Warbler *Seicercus tephrocephalus*

18 bird-days. Noted on five dates – at XTBG eight on 5th & three on 6th, and at Nangongshan 1-4 daily on 7+9+11th.

Bianchi’s Warbler *Seicercus valentini*

29 bird-days. Noted on seven dates – singles at XTBG on 6+10+12th, 7-9 daily at Nangongshan on 7+9+11th, and two at Mengsong on 14th.

Emei Flycatcher-warbler *Seicercus omeiensis*

Two at Nangongshan on 11th.

Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps*

Four bird-days. Singles at Nangongshan on 7+11th, and two at Mengsong on 14th.

Rufous-faced Warbler *Abroscopus albogularis*

Four singing birds (just one seen) at Nangongshan on 11th.

Yellow-bellied Warbler *Abroscopus superciliaris*

17 bird-days. Noted on four dates – main event seven at Nangongshan on 9th.

Puff-throated Babbler *Pellorneum ruficeps*

28 bird-days. Noted on seven dates – main event 11 at XTBG on 5th.

Spot-breasted Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus erythrocnemis*

Two heard at Mengsong on 15th.

****vide* Zheng *et al.* (2011) the ssp involved is *odicus*, part of the to-be-further-investigated ‘Black-streaked Scimitar Babbler’ *Pomatorhinus gravivox*’ of e.g. IOC (2015):

<http://www.worldbirdnames.org/bow/babblers/>

Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*

Eight bird-days. Noted on just five dates – main event three heard singing at XTBG on 5th.

Red-billed Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus ochraceiceps*

16 bird-days. 3-8 daily at Nangongshan on 7+9+11th.

Limestone Wren-Babbler *Napothera crispifrons*

37+ bird-days. Close encounters on four dates at XTBG – main event 13 on 12th...

Pygmy Wren-Babbler *Pnoepyga pusilla*

Singles at Mengsong on 13+15th.

***^vide Inskipp *et al.* (2010) *Pnoepyga* is, based on molecular analysis, best regarded as a family *Pnoepygidae*, ‘separated from other families within *Sylviolidae* by the combination of short, rounded & “cup-shaped” wings; very short or virtually absent tail; strong and long legs, with booted tarsus; cryptically patterned plumage with more or less irregular colour pattern of ventral feathers; and two colour morphs’.

Rufous-capped Babbler *Stachyris ruficeps*

34 bird-days. Noted on 11 dates.

Golden Babbler *Stachyris chrysaea*

Six bird-days – noted only at Nangongshan, with two on 7th & four on 11th.

Grey-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps*

12 bird-days. Noted on seven dates – main event five at XTBG on 5th.

Striped Tit-Babbler *Macronous gularis*

84 bird-days. Noted on nine dates at XTBG & Nangongshan.

Chestnut-capped Babbler *Timalia pileata*

One seen at Mengsong on 13th.

White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus*

32+ bird-days. Up to 20+ (= five groups mostly heard) daily at Nangongshan on 7+9+11th.

Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax monileger*

Heard at XTBG on 10th.

***In addition, unid. Necklaced Laughingthrushes at Nangongshan on both 7+11th – five on the last date were ‘probably Lessers’.

Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax pectoralis*

Noted on two dates at Nangongshan: heard on 9th & 13+ on 11th.

Black-throated Laughingthrush *Garrulax chinensis*

One heard singing at XTBG on 5th.

White-browed Laughingthrush *Garrulax sannio*

Noted only at Mengsong – two on 13th & heard on 15th.

Silver-eared Mesia *Leiothrix argenteauris*

21 bird-days: 4-11 daily at Mengsong over 13-15th.

Red-billed Leiothrix *Leiothrix lutea*

Five bird-days – at Nangongshan one on 7th & four on 11th.

White-browed Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius flaviscapis*[^]

17 bird-days. Noted on five dates at Nangongshan & Mengsong.

***^='Blyth's Shrike-babbler *P. aeralatus* is split from Pied [White-browed] Shrike-babbler *P. flaviscapis* (Rheindt & Eaton 2009)': IOC (2015).

Black-eared Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius melanotis*

Four bird-days – two both at Nangongshan on 7th & at Mengsong on 14th.

Spectacled Barwing *Actinodura ramsayi*

Two heard (& seen poorly) at Nangongshan on 7th.

Blue-winged Minla *Minla cyanouroptera*

19 bird-days. Noted on four dates – main event 12 at Mengsong on 14th.

Chestnut-tailed Minla *Minla strigula*

One heard singing at Nangongshan on 11th.

Rufous-winged Fulvetta *Alcippe castaneiceps*

Six at Mengsong on 14th.

Brown-cheeked Fulvetta *Alcippe poiocephala*

Four at Nangongshan on 9th.

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

89+ bird-days. Noted daily at Nangongshan & at Mengsong on both 14+15th.

***IOC (2015) lists this species as 'Yunnan' Fulvetta.

Rufous-backed Sibia *Heterophasia annectans*

One heard & seen flying across at Nangongshan on 7th - 'odd we didn't hear more?'...

Long-tailed Sibia *Heterophasia picaoides*

Three at Nangongshan on 11th.

Indochinese Yuhina *Yuhina torqueola*[^]

20 bird-days: 3-6 daily at Nangongshan on 7+9+11th & five at Mengsong on 14th.

***^IOC (2015): '*Yuhina torqueola* is split from *Y. castaniceps* (Collar 2006a, BLI 1.0)'.

Whiskered Yuhina *Yuhina flavicollis*

19 bird-days at Mengsong: 15 on 14th & four heard on 15th.

White-bellied Yuhina *Erpornis zantholeuca*

24 bird-days. Noted on three dates – 11 at Nangongshan on both 7+9th & two at Mengsong on 14th.

Black-throated Parrotbill *Paradoxornis*[^] *nipalensis*

A flock of 21+ at Mengsong on 14th.

***^IOC (2015): ‘Black-throated Parrotbill separated to genus *Suthora* (Penhallurick and Robson 2009)’.

Grey-headed Parrotbill *Paradoxornis gularis*

12 bird-days. Noted only at Nangongshan – eight on 7th & four on 11th.

Chestnut-flanked White-eye *Zosterops erythropleurus*

Eight bird-days: four at XTBG on both 6+8th.

Japanese White-eye *Zosterops japonicus*

12+ bird-days. Noted on three dates at XTBG, Nangongshan & Mengsong.

Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus*

26 bird-days. 1-10 noted on five dates at XTBG & Jinghong.

*****White-eye sp**

15 at XTBG on 5th.

Naga Nuthatch *Sitta nagaensis*

Singles in different places @ Mengsong on both 14+15th.

Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *Sitta cinnamoventris*

One at Nangongshan on 9th – ‘singing out in a bare tree, vertical posture & throwing itself into it’.

***In very nearly the same spot where seen earlier in the year: S Bale, pers comm.

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis*

Seven bird-days. Noted on four dates – two daily at Nangongshan & one at Mengsong on 14th.

Myna sp *Acridotheres sp*

One at Tropical Flowers & Plants Garden, Jinghong, on 16th.

Blue Whistling Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus*

Four bird-days. Noted at XTBG on three dates.

Black-breasted / Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus dissimilis* / *T. obscurus*

One at Nangongshan on 11th.

Himalayan Rubythroat *Luscinia pectoralis*

One male at Mengsong on 15th – ‘sitting up & then photographed in rapeseed field!’.

****vide* Robson (2008) the species only occurs in adjacent SE Asia as a scarce resident [!] in N Burma, and as a vagrant to NW & C Thailand.

Himalayan / Northern Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger rufilatus* / *T. cyanurus*

Two female-types at Mengsong on 14th.

Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis*

52 bird-days. Noted on eight dates at XTBG & Jinghong.

White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus*

24 bird-days. Noted on six dates at XTBG & Nangongshan.

White-tailed Robin *Myiomela leucura*

Three bird-days at Mengsong – two heard singing on 14th & one heard singing on 15th.

‘Siberian’ Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*

23 bird-days. Noted on dates – at XBGT just one (a male) on 13th, and at Mengsong one also on 13th, ten on 14th & 11 on 15th.

***^sspp *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’.

Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata*

Singles en route to Mengsong on both 13+15th.

Grey Bushchat *Saxicola ferreus*

Singles on three dates: one male [GBJ] photographed at Nangongshan on 9th, one heard in XTBG rubber plantation on 12th & one male at Mengsong on 15th.

Eastern Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola philippensis*[^]

Singles at XTBG on 10+12th.

***^ Zuccon & Ericson (2010) present evidence that *pandoo*, *philippensis* & extralimital *madoci* are as genetically distinct from *solitarius* & *longirostris* lists for SW Xizang) as from Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush and should consequently be treated as separate species.

Rufous-gorgetted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophilata*

One female at Mengsong on 14th.

***In addition, three flycatchers heard at Nangongshan on 11th may well have been this species.

Red-throated Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla*

Three bird-days – one at XTBG on 13th, and two (incl an adult male) at Tropical Flowers & Plants Garden, Jinghong, on 16th.

Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni*

Eight bird-days – two heard at Nangongshan on 11th & six at Mengsong on 14th.

Slaty-blue Flycatcher *Ficedula tricolor*

One male at Mengsong on 15th.

Asian Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassinus*

Six bird-days. Noted on four dates from 10th.

Pale Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis unicolor*

31 bird-days. Noted on six dates: one heard at XTBG on 5th, at Nangongshan six on 7th, four on 9th & 14 on 11th, and at Mengsong six (incl two females seen) on 14th.

Hill Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis banyumas*

63 bird-days. Noted on nine dates – main event 19 at Nangongshan on 11th.

Large Niltava *Niltava grandis*

Two (incl one heard singing at c1,550m) at Nangongshan on 11th.

Small Niltava *Niltava macgregoriae*

One heard singing at Nangongshan on 11th.

Grey-headed Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*

85 bird-days. Noted on ten dates – main event 30 at Nangongshan on 11th.

Blue-winged Leafbird *Chloropsis cochinchinensis*

Six bird-days at Nangongshan: singles on both 7+11th & four on 9th.

Orange-bellied Leafbird *Chloropsis hardwickii*

One female at Mengsong on 15th.

Yellow-vented Flowerpecker *Dicaeum chrysorrheum*

Five bird-days. Noted on four dates – at XTBG singles on both 5+6th & two (heading N) on 8th, and one ‘seen well’ at Nangongshan on 9th.

Plain Flowerpecker *Dicaeum concolor*

112+ bird-days. Noted on ten dates at XTBG (main event 46 on 12th when an effort was made to count them), Nangongshan (main event 16+ on 11th) & at Jinghong.

Buff-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectum*

25 bird-days: 3-14 daily at Mengsong over 13-15th.

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum*

Singles on three dates: at XTBG on 4+8th & at Manting Park, Jinghong, on 16th.

Brown-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis*

One at Manting Park, Jinghong, on 16th.

***Only recently added to the Chinese list: male seen & photographed at Mengla Botanical Gardens, and female seen & photographed at grounds of Tropical Plants Research Institute, Jinghong, Yunnan over 14-15 Dec 2009 by Liao Xiaodong: China Bird Watch issue 71, p22.

Mrs. Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae*

Ten bird-days. Noted on five dates at XTBG (single males heading N on 8+12th), Nangongshan (one pair on 11th) & Mengsong (three on both 14+15th).

Black-throated Sunbird *Aethopyga saturata*

15 bird-days: 2-8 daily at Nangongshan on 7+9+11th.

***On 9th a female was seen feeding a full-grown juvenile...

Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja*

29 bird-days. Noted on eight dates at XTBG (main event seven on 5th) & at Manting Park, Jinghong, on 16th.

Fire-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga ignicauda*

Two female-types up in a flowering tree at Mengsong on 14th.

Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra*

Eight at XTBG on 5th.

Streaked Spiderhunter *Arachnothera magna*

13 bird-days. Noted on seven dates at XTBG (incl one heading N on 10th), Nangongshan (1-3 daily) & Mengsong.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Not systematically recorded.

Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava*

129+ bird-days. Noted daily at Mengsong – main event c58 on 14th.

***...as was bound to happen, having gone to Mengsong hoping especially for this species, I found several individuals near Ruili within a few days of leaving Xishuangbanna!

***'The Red Avadavats once became quite common species of different bird markets in Beijing—It is easy to find 50 or more birds in a cage for sale before several years. Now the trade number of them seems in declining, but you can still see some in cage occasionally. I don't believe all of them from captive breed.' : Li Xiaomai, email 19 Mar 2014.

Pin-tailed Parrotfinch *Erythura prasina*

One in flight, heading ENE, at XTBG on 12th.

***The species was added to the Chinese list only in winter 2013/2014 at XTBG, with one killed against a window resulting in several being found nearby (WXM pers com).

White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata*

18 bird-days. Noted on four dates at XTBG (three on 8th, two on 10th & nine on 12th) & at Mengsong on 15th.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*

96 bird-days. Noted on nine dates – main event 30 at Mengsong on 15th.

