

# Xishuangbanna 31 Mar – 18 Apr 2015

*An at-a-glance list of 212 species of birds & eight 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 a spring escape from Beijing with my wife, Sun Aiqin.

It was a follow-up to our March 2014 visit – please see

[http://www.club300.se/Files/TravelReports/Xishuangbanna2014\\_JH.pdf](http://www.club300.se/Files/TravelReports/Xishuangbanna2014_JH.pdf)

The later dates plus some new ground covered ensured an interesting & highly enjoyable rematch...

On arrival at Jinghong airport we were taken to Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Gardens [XTBG] at Menglun where we again 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 had still not reopened). We visited Wangtianshu reserve near Mengla (two overnights) and Mohan, the Laos border town home to a lively market (two overnights), then returned to Menglun for more 'local' birdwatching and to witness the Dai Water Splashing Festival. A final couple of days in Jinghong were devoted to tea: Xishuangbanna is famous for its teas, and we'd nearly finished what we brought back in 2014...

XTBG is such an enjoyable place to be based that we are quite dismayed at having taken until 2014 to 'discover' it.

We remain grateful to Steve Bale & Tong Menxiu who helped and inspired in connection with our 2014 visit, for the hands-on help, company in the field & hospitality given by Wang Ximin & Wang Xiying, and for comments / help offered by Craig Brelsford, Salindra K. Dayananda, Alice Hughes & Sreekar Rachakonda.

Xishuangbanna can be over-run by domestic visitors during Chinese holidays; for reasons relating to how the economy works, however, this is less of a problem at XTBG. Outside 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. That said, no doubt there are still plenty of ornithological discoveries to be made, and a lot remains to be learnt about migration, dispersal and seasonality.

Anyone considering China as a birding destination is welcome to contact the author at:

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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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition* (Dickinson 2003).

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## **Species list:**

### **Hill Partridge sp** *Arborophila sp*

21+ bird-days. Noted on three dates at Nangongshan.

\*\*\*Probably two species were involved.

### **Red Junglefowl** *Gallus gallus*

Ten bird-days. Heard on eight dates.

### **Asian Openbill** *Anastomus oscitans*

One soaring over XTBG at 12h20 on 13<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*1<sup>st</sup> record for China was one photographed 3 Oct 2004 at Erhai, Dali, Yunnan, by WANG Yitian: China Bird Watch issue 70, p 21.

Subsequently (*vide* S Chan: [OB] posting & pers com 1 Oct 2012), ‘hundreds were recorded in Xishuangbanna regularly and many other records in locations in Yunnan [...]. There were photos of birds in Guiyang City [in neighbouring Guizhou province] as well’.

### **Cinnamon Bittern** *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*

3-4 at Tropical Plants & Flowers Garden, Jinghong, on 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Black Bittern** *Dupetor flavicollis*

One showing well at Tropical Plants & Flowers Garden, Jinghong, on 18<sup>th</sup>.

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

Four bird-days. Noted @ XTBG on three evenings.

**Chinese Pond Heron** *Ardeola bacchus*

Singles on three dates.

**Eastern Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus coromandus*

Six summer plumage adults flew by at XTBG on the evening of 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

One at Wangtianshu hotel on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

One en route near Menglun on 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

One in bat-hunting mode at XTBG in evening of 3<sup>rd</sup>.

\*\*\*ssp *ernesti* – known to occur in adjacent N Laos: Robson (2008) - was added as a Chinese taxa by Zheng *et al.* (2011), referencing a 2010 paper.

**Black Baza** *Avecida leuphotes*

A flock of seven migr at XTBG at 11h36 on 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Oriental Honey Buzzard** *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

Ten bird-days. Up to four noted at XTBG on six dates – just one appeared to be migr.

\*\*\*In addition, a raptor sp. at XTBG on 2<sup>nd</sup> may have been this species.

**Crested Serpent Eagle** *Spilornis cheela*

19 bird-days. Noted on 12 dates – could be seen displaying fairly reliably at XTBG.

**Pied Harrier** *Circus melanoleucos*

Two – an immaculate adult male w/ a female-type – migr at XTBG at 12h14 on 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Crested Goshawk** *Accipiter trivirgatus*

20-21 bird-days. Noted on eight dates – as many as six in a morning at XTBG!

**Besra** *Accipiter virgatus*

One adult hunting at XTBG on 5<sup>th</sup> – gone in a flash...

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

Four bird-days. 1-2 noted on three dates at XTBG.

\*\*\**Accipiter sp*

Singles at XTBG on two dates.

**Grey-faced Buzzard** *Butastur indicus*

Four migr at XTBG on 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

Singles en route on 31<sup>st</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Greater Spotted Eagle** *Aquila clanga*

One migr at XTBG at 11h20 on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Mountain Hawk Eagle** *Spizaetus nipalensis*

Singles at Nangongshan on 11+14<sup>th</sup> – vocal display-flying seen...

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

Three bird-days. One at XTBG on 15<sup>th</sup> & two at Tropical Plants & Flowers Garden, Jinghong, on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

Ten bird-days. One at XTBG on 15<sup>th</sup> & nine at Tropical Plants & Flowers Garden, Jinghong, on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

One feeding below the XTBG suspension bridge in late afternoon on 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

One heard along the XTBG river on 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Spotted Dove** *Streptopelia chinensis*

Two bird-days. Singles @ Wangtianshu hotel on 6<sup>th</sup> & at Tropical Plants & Flowers Garden, Jinghong, on 18<sup>th</sup>.

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

One heard at Nangongshan on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps indica*

Six bird-days. Noted on five dates.

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

Five bird-days: a pair at Wangtianshu on 7<sup>th</sup> & three at Mohan on 9<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\***Green Pigeon sp.** *Treron sp.*

Four bird-days: heard at XTBG on 2<sup>nd</sup> & three at Wangtianshu on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Mountain Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula badia*

11 bird-days. Heard-onlies on five dates.

**Large Hawk-Cuckoo** *Cuculus sparverioides*

14 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Indian Cuckoo** *Cuculus micropterus*

25 bird-days. Noted on nine dates.

**Oriental Cuckoo** *Cuculus saturatus*

One heard at Nangongshan on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Banded Bay Cuckoo** *Cacomantis sonneratii*

12 bird-days. Noted on ten dates – quite possibly no more than six individuals were involved.

**Plaintive Cuckoo** *Cacomantis merulinus*

21 bird-days. Noted on 12 dates.

**Asian Emerald Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx maculatus*

Singles noted on five dates.

**Violet Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*

Eight bird-days. Noted on six dates.

**Square-tailed Drongo Cuckoo** *Surniculus lugubris*

40 bird-days. Noted on 15 dates.

**Common Koel** *Eudynamis scolopaceus*

Singles heard on two dates.

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

Nine bird-days. Noted on six dates.

**Greater Coucal** *Centropus sinensis*

57+ bird-days. Noted daily.

**Collared Scops Owl** *Otus lettia*

Singles heard near our XTBG hotel on both 3+12<sup>th</sup>.

**Collared Owlet** *Glaucidium brodiei*

Eight bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Asian Barred Owlet** *Glaucidium cuculoides*

14+ bird-days. Noted on at least ten dates.

**Himalayan Swiftlet** *Aerodramus brevirostris*

One at XTBG on 5<sup>th</sup>.

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

33 bird-days. Noted on seven dates – 1-9 at XTBG on 2+4+5+10+13+16<sup>th</sup> & seven at Wangtianshu on 7<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\**vide* WXM my March 2014 records were the 1<sup>st</sup> of this species at XTBG.

\*\*\*20 were seen at Manlin on 22 Nov 2011: M K Poulsen pers. obs.

**Asian Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus balasiensis*

290+ bird-days. Noted on 12 dates – main event c100 along the river at Menglun on 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Cook's Swift** *Apus cooki*

20 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

**House Swift** *Apus nipalensis*

1,140+ bird-days. Noted daily.

**Crested Treeswift** *Hemiprocne coronata*

Five bird-days: two at Jinuo Shan on 3<sup>rd</sup> & three at Mohan on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Red-headed Trogon** *Harpactes erythrocephalus*

Four bird-days. 1-2 daily at Nangongshan on 11+12+14<sup>th</sup>.

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

Two en route near Wangtianshu on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-capped Kingfisher** *Halcyon pileata*

One at Tropical Plants & Flowers Garden, Jinghong, on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

Seven bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

One heard singing at XTBG on 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Barbet** *Megalaima virens*

24 bird-days. Noted on ten dates.

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

40 bird-days. 12-15 daily at Nangongshan on 11+12+14<sup>th</sup>.

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

137+ bird-days. Noted daily.

**Blue-eared Barbet** *Megalaima australis*

Singles heard on four dates.

**Coppersmith Barbet** *Megalaima haemacephala*

30 bird-days. Noted on 11 dates.

**Speckled Piculet** *Picumnus innominatus*

Seven bird-days. 1-5 daily at Nangongshan on 11+12+14<sup>th</sup>.

**White-browed Piculet** *Sasia ochracea*

One seen well at Wangtianshu on 11<sup>th</sup>.

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

Singles at Nangongshan on both 11+12<sup>th</sup>.

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

Four bird-days. Three – incl a male seen well – at Nangongshan on 11<sup>th</sup> & one heard there on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Rufous Woodpecker** *Celeus brachyurus*

Seven bird-days. Singles noted on seven dates.

**Lesser Yellownape** *Picus chlorolophus*

17 bird-days. Noted on four dates – two at Wangtianshu on 7<sup>th</sup> & 4-6 daily at Nangongshan on 11+12+14<sup>th</sup>.

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

One heard at Nangongshan on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Bay Woodpecker** *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*

Seven bird-days. 1-4 heard daily at Nangongshan on 11+12+14<sup>th</sup>.

**\*\*\*Woodpecker sp.**

Singles heard on two dates.

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

Six bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Silver-breasted Broadbill** *Serilophus lunatus*

Singles at Jinuoshan on 3<sup>rd</sup> & at Wangtianshu on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Rusty-naped Pitta** *Pitta oatesi*

Singles heard in three different places at Nangongshan on 11+12+14<sup>th</sup>.

**Blue Pitta** *Pitta cyanea*

One seen in response to playback at Nangongshan on 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Blue-winged Pitta** *Pitta moluccensis*

Presumably the same singleton heard singing at Nangongshan on 11+12<sup>th</sup>.

**Large Woodshrike** *Tephrodornis virgatus*

13 bird-days. Noted on four dates – one at Wangtianshu on 7<sup>th</sup> & 4-6 daily at Nangongshan on 11+12+14<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Iora** *Aegithina tiphia*

13 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

**Great Iora** *Aegithina lafresnayeii*

Singles at XTBG on 2<sup>nd</sup>+13<sup>th</sup>.

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

Nine bird-days. Noted on four dates – one at Jinuoshan on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 1-5 daily at Nangongshan on 11+12+14<sup>th</sup>.

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

15 bird-days. Noted on nine dates.

**Rosy Minivet** *Pericrocotus roseus*

Ten bird-days. Noted on three dates.

\*\*\*The species is considered a fairly common winter visitor to adjacent N Laos: Robson (2008).

**Swinhoe's Minivet** *Pericrocotus cantonensis*

Two at Nangongshan on 11<sup>th</sup>.

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

Two (incl a male seen well & heard calling) at Nangongshan on 14<sup>th</sup>.

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

Two at Nangongshan on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Scarlet Minivet** *Pericrocotus flammeus*

48 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

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

30+ bird-days. Noted on four dates.

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

17 bird-days. Noted on ten dates.

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

Singles on just two dates.

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

Singles on 31<sup>st</sup> & 1<sup>st</sup>.



**Maroon Oriole** *Oriolus traillii*

43 bird-days. Noted on six dates, incl up to 18 daily at Nangongshan.

\*\*\*In addition, four orioles heard along the river at Wangtianshu on 7<sup>th</sup> may also have been this species.

**Black Drongo** *Dicrurus macrocercus*

One flying upriver at XTBG on 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Ashy Drongo** *Dicrurus leucophaeus*

37 bird-days. Noted on ten dates.

**Crow-billed Drongo** *Dicrurus annectans*

One seen well at Wangtianshu on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Bronzed Drongo** *Dicrurus aeneus*

Nine bird-days. Noted on four dates.

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

Eight bird-days. 1-5 daily at Nangongshan on 11+12+14<sup>th</sup>.

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

50 bird-days. Noted on eight dates – main event 17 at Nangongshan on 12<sup>th</sup>.

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

Six bird-days. Noted on just three dates.

**Black-naped Monarch** *Hypothymis azurea*

23 bird-days. Noted on nine dates.

**Asian Paradise-flycatcher** *Terpsiphone paradisi*

Singles on three dates.

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

Five bird-days. Noted at XTBG on just two dates – one on 2<sup>nd</sup> & four together on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Green Magpie** *Cissa chinensis*

Six bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Grey Treepie** *Dendrocitta formosae*

12 bird-days: 3-5 daily at Nangongshan on 11+12+14<sup>th</sup>.

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

Seven bird-days. Noted on four dates at XTBG & at Tropical Plants & Flowers Garden, Jinghong, on 18<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*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.

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

Five bird-days. 1-2 daily at Nangongshan on 11+12+14<sup>th</sup>.

**Sultan Tit** *Melanochlora sultanea*

One in flight at Wangtianshu on 7<sup>th</sup>.

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

14 bird-days. Four at XTBG on 3<sup>rd</sup> & ten there on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

650+ bird-days. Noted almost daily – main events c200 at XTBG on 10<sup>th</sup>, gathering over the river in the evening, and 300+ ditto on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Dusky Crag Martin** *Ptyonoprogne concolor*

Eight bird-days. Noted at XTBG on three dates: one on 2<sup>nd</sup>, five on 4<sup>th</sup> & two on 5<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\**vide* WXM my March 2014 records were the 1<sup>st</sup> of this species at XTBG

**Asian House Martin** *Delichon dasypus*

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

**Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis daurica*

43 bird-days. Noted at XTBG on four dates – main event 25 heading N on 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Striated Swallow** *Cecropis striolata*

217 bird-days. Noted on 14 dates – main event 96 heading N at XTBG on 10<sup>th</sup>, most likely a repositioning movement rather than actual migration: Robson (2008) considered the species a resident.

\*\*\*In addition, unidentified Red-rumped / Striated Swallows were noted on three dates at XTBG.

**Hill Prinia** *Prinia superciliaris*

15 bird-days. Noted on four dates – one at Jinuoshan on 31<sup>st</sup> & 2-7 daily at Nangongshan on 11+12+14<sup>th</sup>.

**Grey-breasted Prinia** *Prinia hodgsonii*

22+ bird-days. Noted on nine dates.

**Plain Prinia** *Prinia inornata*

Singles on three dates.

**Mountain Tailorbird** *Orthomus cucullatus*

One heard at Nangongshan on 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Tailorbird** *Orthomus sutorius*

70 bird-days. Noted on 15 dates.

**Dark-necked Tailorbird** *Orthomus atrogularis*

55 bird-days. Noted on 12 dates.

**Striated Bulbul** *Pycnonotus striatus*

One at Nangongshan on 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-headed Bulbul** *Pycnonotus atriceps*

Two at XTBG on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-crested Bulbul** *Pycnonotus melanicterus*

49 bird-days. Noted on ten dates.

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

74+ bird-days. Noted on nine dates – main event 35 at Tropical Plants & Flowers Garden, Jinghong, on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Sooty-headed Bulbul** *Pycnonotus aurigaster*

88+ bird-days. Noted on 11 dates.

**Flavescent Bulbul** *Pycnonotus flavescens*

Eight bird-days. 2-4 noted daily at Nangongshan on 11+12+14<sup>th</sup>.

**Puff-throated Bulbul** *Criniger pallidus*

32 bird-days. Noted on 11 dates.

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

35 bird-days. Noted on nine dates, incl at XTBG on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Mountain Bulbul** *Ixos mccllellandii*

43 bird-days. 9-20 daily at Nangongshan on 11+12+14<sup>th</sup>.

**Ashy Bulbul** *Hemixos flava*

77 bird-days. 20-33 daily at Nangongshan on 11+12+14<sup>th</sup>.

**Black Bulbul** *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*

One at XTBG on 4<sup>th</sup>, a late migrant dropping in late in the morning.

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

One heard at Nangongshan at c1,175m on 14<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*Zheng *et al.* (2011) listed the species only for W & NW Yunnan, but it was listed for nearby N Laos by Robson (2008).

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

...a nearly drowned-out song heard briefly at Jinuoshan on 3<sup>rd</sup> may have been this species.

**Black-browed Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*

Two heard singing at Tropical Plants & Flowers Garden, Jinghong, on 18<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*In Hong Kong, 'spring passage commences in late March, but is strongest during latter half of April and the first half of May': Carey *et al.* (2001). 'The main wintering range extends from N & C Thailand south to peninsula Malaysia and Singapore, where it can be found in reedbeds beside almost any wetland, no matter how small or unsavoury': Kennerley *et al.* (2010).

**Dusky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

18 bird-days. Noted on seven dates. Main event seven at Tropical Plants & Flowers Garden, Jinghong, on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Chinese Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus yunnanensis*

Two at Jinuoshan on 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Pallas's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus*

One heard at Nangongshan on 11<sup>th</sup>.

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

108 bird-days. Noted on 17 dates.

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

Five bird-days. Noted on four dates.

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

**Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

Singles noted on three dates.

\*\*\*ssp *plumbeitarsus* - still / again considered full species by Robson (2008), without taxonomic comment, and by e.g. IOC (2015) – was not eliminated.

**Claudia's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus claudiae*

20 bird-days. Noted on five dates – main event 14 at Jinuoshan on 3<sup>rd</sup> (& one near the East-West bridge at XTBG in the evening of 3<sup>rd</sup>).

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

67 bird-days. 16-31 noted daily at Nangongshan on 11+12+14<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*Formerly considered conspecific with 'White-tailed Leaf Warbler' *P. davisoni*.

**Yellow-vented Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus cantator*

18 bird-days. Noted on nine dates – probably no more than eight individuals were involved.

**Grey-crowned Warbler** *Seicercus tephrocephalus*  
Singles at Jinuoshan on 3<sup>rd</sup> & at Nangongshan on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Bianchi's Warbler** *Seicercus valentini*  
Ten bird-days. Noted on three dates - one at XTBG on 4<sup>th</sup>, and at Nangongshan seven on 11<sup>th</sup> & two on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Rufous-faced Warbler** *Abroscopus albogularis*  
21 bird-days. Noted on five dates at Jinuoshan, Wangtianshu & Nangongshan.

**Puff-throated Babbler** *Pellorneum ruficeps*  
38 bird-days. Heard on 11 dates.

**Buff-breasted Babbler** *Pellorneum tickelli*  
Five bird-days. Noted on three dates at Wangtianshu & Nangongshan – excellent views...

**Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*  
None bird-days. Noted on four dates at Jinuoshan & Nangongshan.

**Red-billed Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus ochraceiceps*  
27 bird-days. 3-12 noted daily at Nangongshan on 11+12+14<sup>th</sup> – a roving family party of six was seen on both 12+14<sup>th</sup>, the juveniles still shorter-billed...

**Limestone Wren-Babbler** *Napothera crispifrons*  
29+ bird-days. 4-6 noted at XTBG on six dates.

**Eyebrowed Wren-Babbler** *Napothera epilepidota*  
Seven bird-days. Prolonged encounters at Wangtianshu on both 6+7<sup>th</sup>.

**Rufous-capped Babbler** *Stachyris ruficeps*  
28 bird-days. Noted on 13 dates.

**Golden Babbler** *Stachyris chrysaea*  
Singles at Nangongshan on 11+14<sup>th</sup>.

**Grey-throated Babbler** *Stachyris nigriceps*  
16 bird-days. Heard on five dates.

**Striped Tit-Babbler** *Macronous gularis*  
107+ bird-days. Noted on 14 dates.

**White-crested Laughingthrush** *Garrulax leucolophus*  
10+ bird-days. Noted at Nangongshan on both 11+12<sup>th</sup>.

**Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush** *Garrulax pectoralis*

24+ bird-days. Noted daily at Nangongshan – main event 14 on 14<sup>th</sup>, incl a group of ten coaxed into view briefly...

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

One at c1,500m w/ family party of Red-billed Scimitar Babblers at Nangongshan on 12<sup>th</sup>.  
\*\*\*Robson (2008) gives 1,525m as the upper limit for this species.

**‘Chestnut-crowned’<sup>^</sup> Laughingthrush** *Garrulax ‘erythrocephalus’<sup>^</sup>*

Two seen at Nangongshan on 11<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*The taxa *melanostigma*, *ramsayi*, *schistaceum*, *subconnectens* & *connectens* (of C & SE Yunnan, NE & C Laos, and N Tonkin) are now mostly split as Silver-eared Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron melanostigma*. 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*’.

\*\*\***Laughingthrush sp / spp.**

What may have been an additional one or two spp were heard at Nangongshan...

**Silver-eared Mesia** *Leiothrix argenteauris*

Singles at Jinuoshan on 3<sup>rd</sup> & at Nangongshan (w/ the Red-billed Scimitar Babbler family party) on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**White-browed Shrike-Babbler** *Pteruthius flaviscapis*<sup>^</sup>

23 bird-days. Noted on five dates at Wangtianshu & Nangongshan.

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

**Green Shrike-Babbler** *Pteruthius xanthochlorus*

One seen well at c1,550m at Nangongshan on 11<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*Robson (2008) does not record the species for nearby Laos; Zheng *et al.* (2011) records the species only for W Yunnan – it has been recorded at Dali (JH *et al.* pers obs).

**Collared Babbler** *Gampsorhynchus (rufulus) torquatus*

Three seen well at Nangongshan on 11<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*HBW vol 12 (p212) splits *torquatus* (with *luciae* & *saturator*) as Collared Babbler *G. torquatus*, leaving *rufulus* as a monotypic species ranging into W Yunnan. Zheng *et al.* (2011) 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’.

**Spectacled Barwing** *Actinodura ramsayi*

1-2 daily at Nangongshan on 11+12+14<sup>th</sup>.

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

14 bird-days. 1-8 noted daily at Nangongshan on 11+12+14<sup>th</sup>.

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

24 bird-days. Noted on four dates at Jinuoshan, Wangtianshu & Mohan.

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

130+ bird-days. Noted on five dates – two at Wangtianshu on both 6+7<sup>th</sup>, and up to 65 daily at Nangongshan.

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

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

Singles heard singing at Wangtianshu on 7<sup>th</sup> & at Nangongshan on 12<sup>th</sup>.

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

16 at Nangongshan on 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Indochinese Yuhina** *Yuhina (castaniceps) torqueola*

29+ bird-days. Noted two dates at Nangongshan – main event 22 on 14<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Whiskered Yuhina** *Yuhina flavicollis*

Ten bird-days. 1-7 daily at Nangongshan on 11+12+14<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-chinned Yuhina** *Yuhina nigrimenta*

Two seen well at Wangtianshu on 6<sup>th</sup>.

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

21 bird-days. Noted on six days at Jinuoshan, Wangtianshu & Nangongshan.

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

12 bird-days. Noted at Nangongshan on two dates.

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

85+ bird-days. Noted on five dates from 5<sup>th</sup> – main event a feeding flock of 45+ at c1,600m Nangongshan on 11<sup>th</sup>.

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

41 bird-days. Noted on 11 dates.

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

18 bird-days. 3-10 noted daily at Nangongshan.

**Chestnut-tailed Starling** *Sturnus malabaricus*

One at XTBG on 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Blue Whistling Thrush** *Myophonus caeruleus*

16 bird-days. Heard on six dates.

**Dark-sided Thrush** *Zoothera marginata*

Great views of one at Wangtianshu on 6<sup>th</sup>.

***Turdus* sp.**

1-2 in the same spot at Nangongshan on both 11+12<sup>th</sup>...

\*\*\*They were almost certainly Eyebrowed Thrush *T. obscurus*...

**Siberian Blue Robin** *Luscinia cyane*

One moulting male was seen well at Jinuoshan on 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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

45+ bird-days. Noted on (at least) 13 dates – this skulky but vocal species was probably under-recorded.

**White-rumped Shama** *Copsychus malabaricus*

39 bird-days. Noted on eight dates – possibly no more than ten individuals were involved.

**Eastern Blue Rock Thrush** *Monticola philippensis*

Single males were noted on four dates.

\*\*\*^ 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.

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

24 bird-days. Noted on seven dates – main event eight at Tropical Plants & Flowers Garden, Jinghong, on 18<sup>th</sup>.

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

Seven bird-days. Heard-onlies at Nangongshan on both 11+14<sup>th</sup> – at least five individuals were involved.

\*\*\*In addition, a 'probable' heard singing at Wangtianshu on 6<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*Listed as accidental in China by Cheng (1987), with the sole record (a male collected at Nankang River, SW Yunnan, in December) cited also by Yan *et al.* (1995); Zheng *et al.* (2011) listed the species only for SW Yunnan...

\*\*\*The variable, high-pitched song, delivered from deep cover, reveals the species to be in reality not terribly rare: as many as nine in a morning near Ruili (JH *et al.* pers obs)...

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

One male heard singing and seen in flight at c1,550m at Nangongshan on 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula westermanni*

One heard at Nangongshan on 11<sup>th</sup>.



**Asian Verditer Flycatcher** *Eumyias thalassinus*

Three bird-days at Nangongshan: two heard singing on 11<sup>th</sup> & one at c1,550m on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Hainan Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis hainanus*

16 bird-days at Wangtianshu: five on 6<sup>th</sup> & 11 (ten singing males & one female)

**Pale Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis unicolor*

41 bird-days. Noted on five dates: 2-4 at Wangtianshu on both 6+7<sup>th</sup> & 10-13 daily at Nangongshan on 11+12+14<sup>th</sup>.

**Hill Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis banyumas*

73 bird-days. Singing birds were noted on 12 dates – not a single one seen!

**Small Niltava** *Niltava macgregoriae*

Two heard singing at Nangongshan on 11<sup>th</sup>.

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

43 bird-days. Noted on 12 dates.

**Blue-winged Leafbird** *Chloropsis cochinchinensis*

15 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

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

Four bird-days: a pair collecting nest material at Wangtianshu on 7<sup>th</sup>, and singles at Nangongshan on both 11+14<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellow-vented Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum chrysorrheum*

14+ bird-days. Noted on eight dates – 3+ at XTBG on 10<sup>th</sup> could have been 5-6: there simply seemed to be more of them around that day...

**Plain Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum concolor*

171+ bird-days. Noted on 17 dates.

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

One at c1,525m at Nangongshan on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum cruentatum*

One just outside XTBG on 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Brown-throated Sunbird** *Anthreptes malacensis*

A pair at XTBG on 15<sup>th</sup> & two (probably a pair) at Tropical Plants & Flowers Garden, Jinghong, on 18<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*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.

**\*\*\*Purple-naped Sunbird** *Hypogramma hypogrammicum*

A bird seen briefly at Jinuoshan on 3<sup>rd</sup> was probably this species.

**Black-throated Sunbird** *Aethopyga saturata*

Three bird-days. A male seen well at Wangtianshu on 7<sup>th</sup> & singles heard at Nangongshan on both 11+14<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*In addition, a sunbird heard at Mohan on 9<sup>th</sup> may have been this species.

**Crimson Sunbird** *Aethopyga siparaja*

11 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

**Little Spiderhunter** *Arachnothera longirostra*

Three bird-days. Singles at Wangtianshu on 6+7<sup>th</sup> & along river at XTBG on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Streaked Spiderhunter** *Arachnothera magna*

32 bird-days. Noted on 11 dates.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

Singles in Menglun town on two dates: a male on 9<sup>th</sup> & a female at least 300m away from there on 12<sup>th</sup>...

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

Not systematically recorded.

**White-rumped Munia** *Lonchura striata*

605+ bird-days. Noted on eight dates: at XTBG migratory movements noted on six mornings, main event 215 heading E on 13<sup>th</sup>. In addition, 3+ at Nangongshan on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Scaly-breasted Munia** *Lonchura punctulata*

160+ bird-days. Noted on nine dates – main event a flock of c70 heading E at XTBG in the evening of 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

Singles noted on eight dates.

**Paddyfield Pipit** *Anthus rufulus*

Five in the W section of XTBG on 15<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*In 2014 we saw this species only at Mengsong. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that changes in land use have not favoured this species...

**Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni*

16 bird-days. Noted on eight dates – none were migrating.

**Common Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*

14 bird-days. Noted at XTBG on five dates – main event seven on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellow-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza aureola*

Two migrating at XTBG on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Chestnut Bunting** *Emberiza rutila*

c1,530 birds days at XTBG. Migrating birds were noted on all six mornings I was positioned to witness such movements: 22 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 297 on 4<sup>th</sup>, 489+ on 5<sup>th</sup>, 37 on 10<sup>th</sup>, 605 on 13<sup>th</sup> & 80 on 16<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*In addition, unidentified buntings were noted on four dates: 54+ on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 25 on 4<sup>th</sup>, 21 on 5<sup>th</sup> & five on 13<sup>th</sup>. Most likely some were Black-faced, possibly a few were Yellow-breasted, but the majority could have been Chestnut – no Godlewski's *E. godlewskii*, Meadow *E. cioides*, Tristram's *E. tristrami*, Little *E. pusilla*, Yellow-browed *E. chrysophrys* (not listed for Yunnan by Zheng *et al.* (2011)) or Rustic *E. rustica* (intriguingly, this species was listed for S Yunnan by Zheng *et al.* (2011)) were involved.

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

Two migr at XTBG on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

vvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvv

**Mammals:**

**Northern Tree Shrew** *Tupaia belangeri*

Singles at Nangongshan on both 11+14<sup>th</sup>.

**Bat spp.**

At least three spp were noted at XTBG. On 13<sup>th</sup> @ the East-West bridge: one very small, one medium (which we'd seen most evenings over the museum & along the river / at suspension bridge) and three individuals of a much larger species, probably double the weight / bulk of the 'medium' bat, coming out of the large, short palms just E of the bridge and not (at least while we were there) venturing far from them.

A Hughes kindly commented that 'the smallest species would have been *Tylonycteris*, the bamboo bat (though we have upto three species here: *T. pachypus*, *pygmaeus* and *robustula*). The largest species may have been *Cynopterus* (though currently identified species actually need taxonomic revision, as it's a species complex at present), though we also have *Rousettus* in the garden, and *Hipposideros armiger* are common and are large for an insectivorous species. For medium sized bats it depends how high it was flying, near the water could have been *Murina*, but *Rhinolophus* species are also common here.'

Unfortunately 'The Mammals of Southeast Asia' [Francis (2008); I'd hoped to be able to narrow it down using this book, which is infinitely more useful in S / SW Yunnan than 'A Guide to the Mammals of China' (Smith & Xie, 2008)] is not great for bats, the drawings of some families are OK, but some (i.e. *Miniopterus*) miss key diagnostic characteristics of even the family. Also though tropical Southeast Asia currently officially has about 320 bat species, genetic data shows that only about 45% have been accurately classified': A Hughes pers com.

**Inornate Squirrel** *Callosciurus inornatus*

27 animal-days. Noted on ten dates at XTBG, Wangtianshu, Mohan & Nangongshan.

**Asian Red-cheeked Squirrel** *Dremomys rufigenis*  
One at Nangongshan on 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Eastern Striped Squirrel** *Tamiops maritimus*  
1-4 noted daily at Nangongshan on 11+12+14<sup>th</sup>.

**Black Giant Squirrel** *Ratufa bicolor*  
One seen at Nangongshan on 12<sup>th</sup>.