

Birding East China

Henan - Jiangxi - Shanghai

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China (Henan, Jiangxi, Shanghai), December 1st-9th 2018

Front cover

Reeves's Pheasant *Syrmaticus reevesii*, elegant and impressive, at Dongzhai Nature Reserve, Henan.

Participants

Måns Grundsten mans.grundsten@gmail.com (compiler and photos), Mathias Bergström and Claes Wikström from Sweden. More photos from the trip can be found on Claes's page: <http://klacke.smugmug.com/East-China-Dec-2018>. A few videos from the trip can be found on Måns's YouTube-channel: [birdingstockholmmandbeyond](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbirdingstockholmmandbeyond)

Highlights

- A majestic male Reeves's Pheasant patrolling its domains, seen for an hour from the large hide at Dongzhai.
- Nice flocks of Rustic and Little Buntings at Dongzhai.
- Crested Ibises - Some pink and some dirty.
- A duck-filled pond at Poyang Hu: Well over 5000 Falcated Ducks and 5000 Eurasian Wigeons.
- Immense numbers of Spotted Redshanks.
- Siberian, White-naped, Hooded and Common Cranes.
- Multiple sightings of Marsh Grassbirds.
- Last stop at Poyang Hu hit the jackpot: Baer's Pochard.
- Flock of 15 Scaly-sided Mergansers at a fast-flowing river at Wuyuan.
- Pied Falconet seen from a rooftop.
- Yellow-browed Buntings at Moon Bay Island, Wuyuan.
- A pair of skulking Reed Parrotbills in horrible weather conditions at Nanhui, Shanghai.

Logistics

General

We contacted Steven An (China Dreams Tour&Travel, <http://www.chinadreamstour.com>) who quickly responded to our mails and together we set up the itinerary. To cut some costs we opted for an alternative without a birding guide. Both drivers we had were experienced in driving birders and knew all sites well. As a logistic guide and translator we had Alex from Anhui province, he's an established guide for Huangshan mountains in Anhui. He didn't know anything about the birdlife, but that was fine. Alex was very service-minded and ran the logistics perfectly. Steven also provided a letter of invitation which we used for our visa application which was great, we applied for a group visa which is much smoother (at least in Sweden). We never had to visit the embassy but rather got our official papers/group visa with DHL one week before departure. We could highly recommend getting in touch with Steven if planning a similar trip.

Accommodation

Dongzhai: Baiyun Village Hotel. Simple but clean, and great food, the dumplings served on the night of our arrival were among the best. Good birding just outside the hotel, and walking distance to Pheasant-areas.

Yongxiu/Poyang Hu: Yongxiu Kaiyuan Hotel. Spacious, clean, very nice.

Wuyuan: Blue Bay Hotel. Clean and also very nice.

Shanghai Hongqiao: Da Zhong Airport Hotel. Fancy. Located immediately at the check-in counters.

Weather & timing

It was mostly cloudy or misty throughout the trip, light rain on and off every day, but only one afternoon in Wuyuan was lost because of rain. To see the birds at Poyang Hu obviously you need to go for a winter trip. If you have another week to spare many groups combine our trip with a week further south in Fujian province for Emeifeng and Fuzhou-areas. However I would prefer a spring trip to those areas.

Literature & Internet

- Birds of East Asia, Brazil, M. Helm. 2009.
- Trip-reports from www.cloudbirders.com (Campbell 2017, Marsh 2017, Schlick 2017, Van der Spek 2017, Zoothera 2017, Birdquest 2016, Wong 2014, Rockjumper 2012)
- <https://www.shanghaibirding.com/>
- Ebird.org (hotspots and species maps)

Itinerary

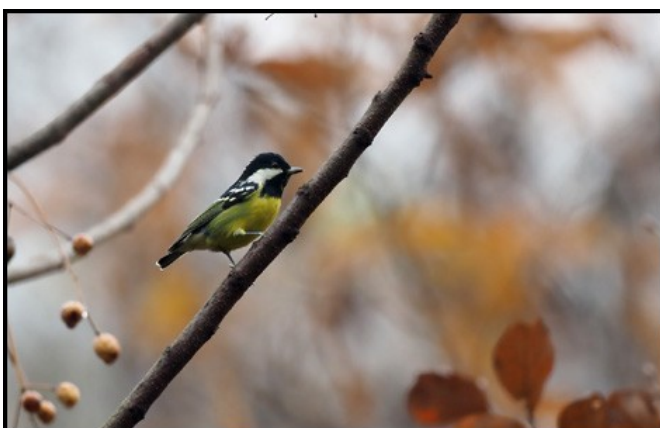
- 1.12 From Sweden via Beijing – Shanghai to Wuhan. Drive to Dongzhai.
- 2.12 Dongzhai.
- 3.12 Dongzhai. Afternoon drive to Yongxiu.
- 4.12 Poyang Hu (NE Nancheng).
- 5.12 Poyang Hu (NE Yongxiu).
- 6.12 Drive to Wuyuan. S Wuyuan.
- 7.12 Xiaoqi, NE Wuyuan. Afternoon train to Shanghai.
- 8.12 Century Park. Cape Nanhui.
- 9.12 Flight to Sweden via Beijing.



'Amur' Wagtail (ssp. leucopsis), Le'an River, Wuyuan.



'East Siberian' Wagtail (ssp. ocularis), Poyang Hu.

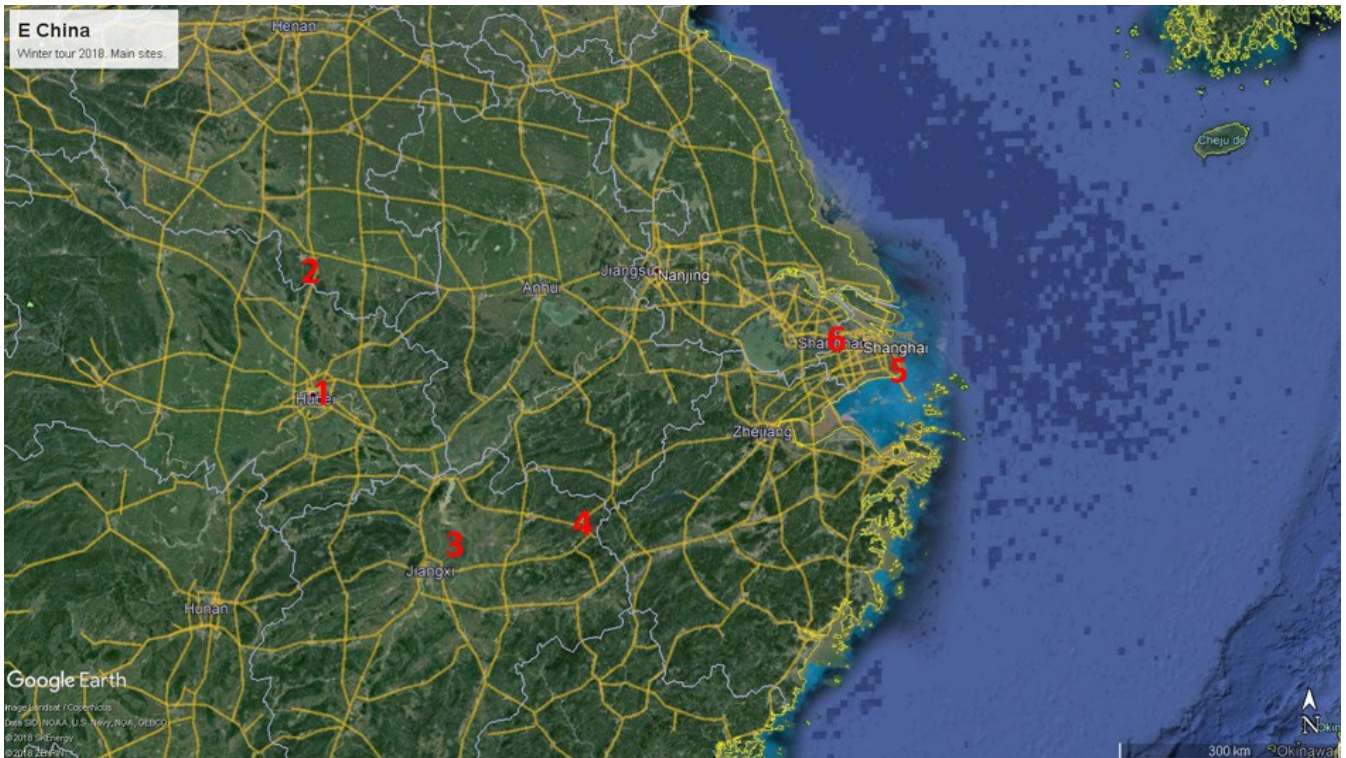


Yellow-bellied Tit, Dongzhai.

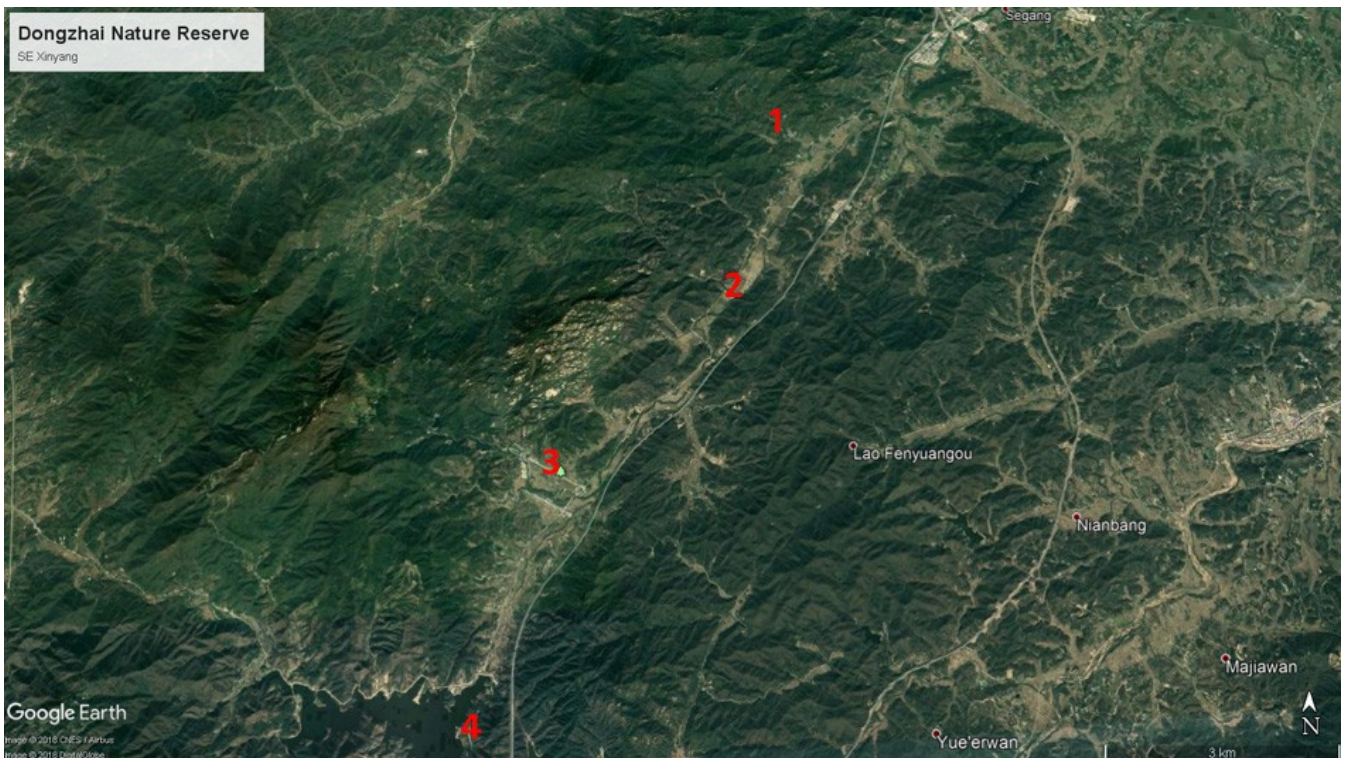


Oriental Stork, Poyang Hu.

Maps



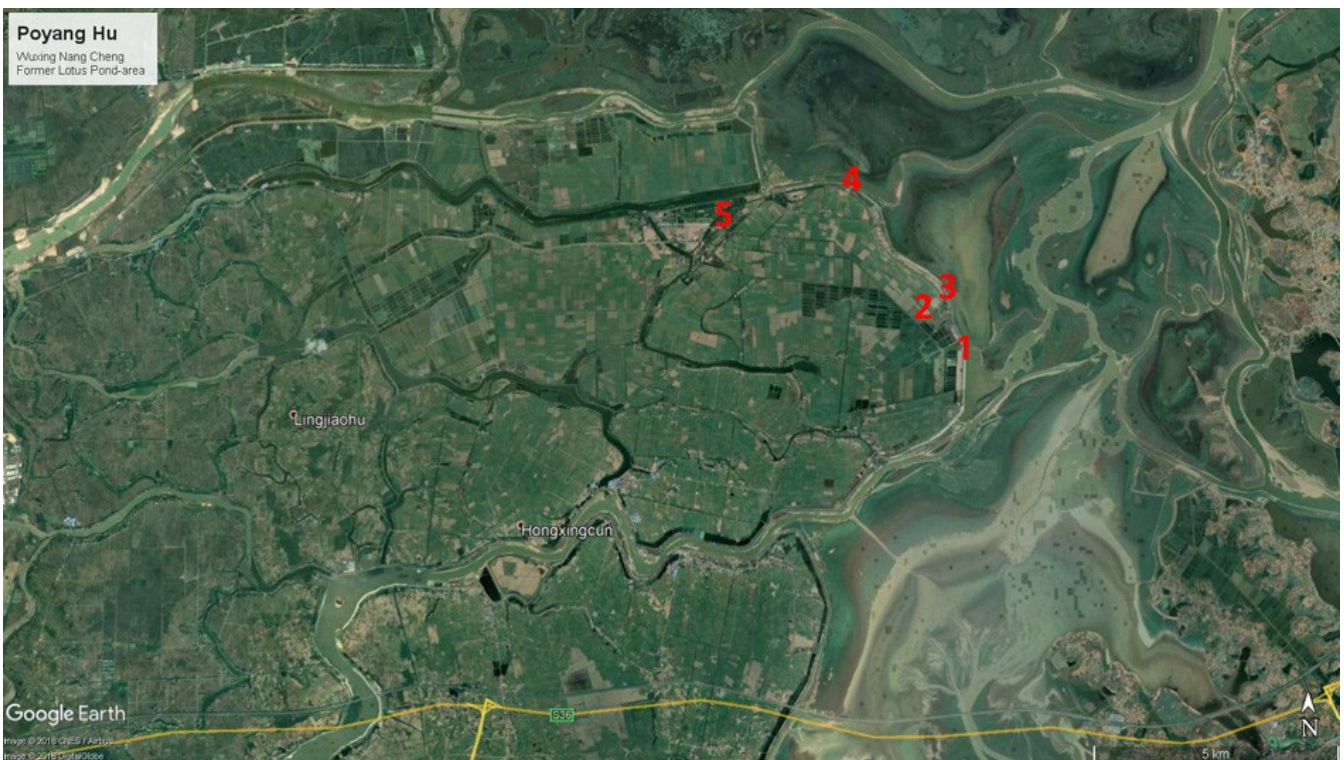
MAP 1 East China, our route. 1 Wuhan. 2 Dongzhai Nature Reserve. 3 Poyang Hu. 4 Wuyuan. 5 Cape Nanhui. 6 Shanghai-Hongqiao Airport.



MAP 2 Dongzhai Nature Reserve, Henan. 1 Baiyun Village (main area for Reeves's Pheasant north-west from here). 2 Paddyfields along valley. Look for Crested Ibis and Collared Crow here. Various Buntings along ditches. 3 Entrance road to Lingshan Temple. 4 Jiepai Reservoir. Great birding in scrubs around abandoned house and in forested slopes.



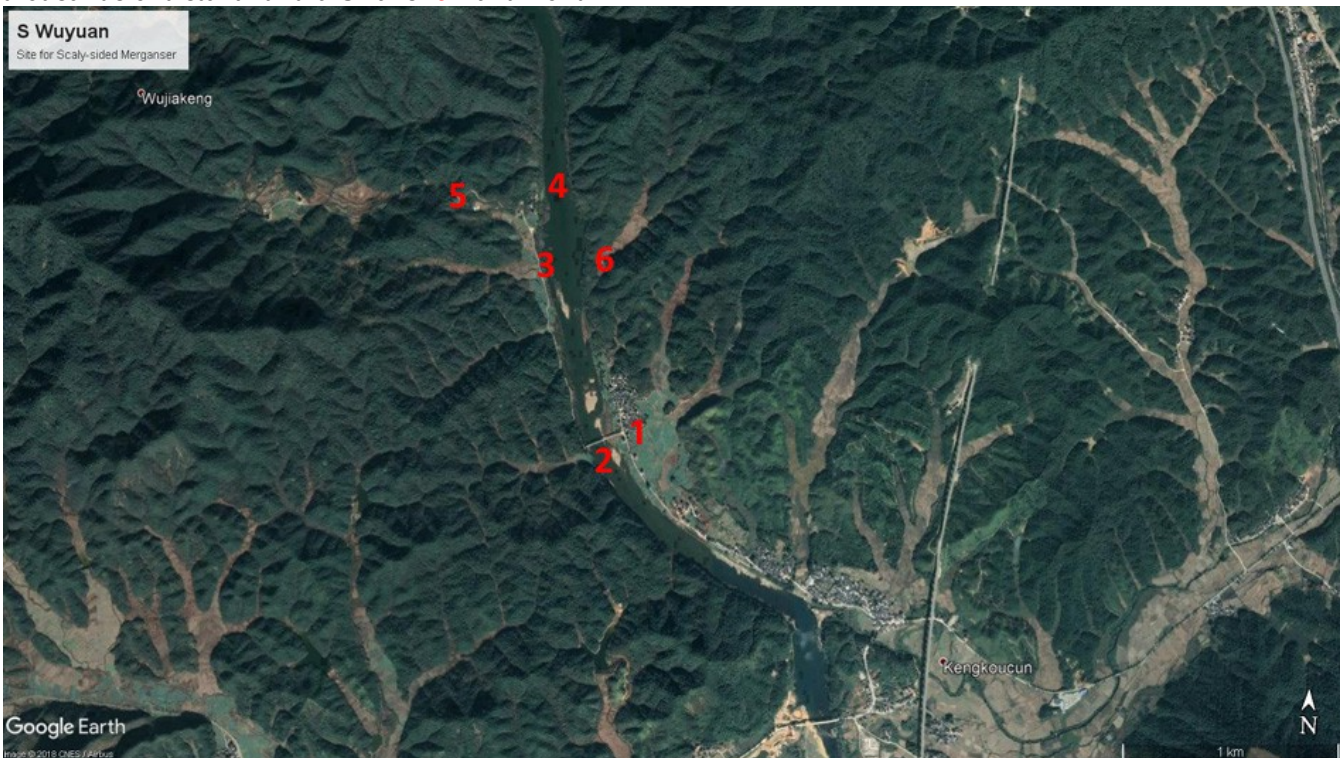
MAP 3 Poyang Hu (NE Nanchang), Nanjixiang Island. **1** Observation tower, very long distance to birds. **2** Amazing pond seen from bank with reeds on south side of road. Packed with ducks. At least 10000+, many more in distance. **3** Walk north along embankment to large pool. Geese and ducks on the far shore with many Swan Geese present. **4** Observation tower. Very long distance to bird-filled lake in north-west. **5** Good vantage point to large lake in north. **6** Great pond west of Nanjixiang Island.



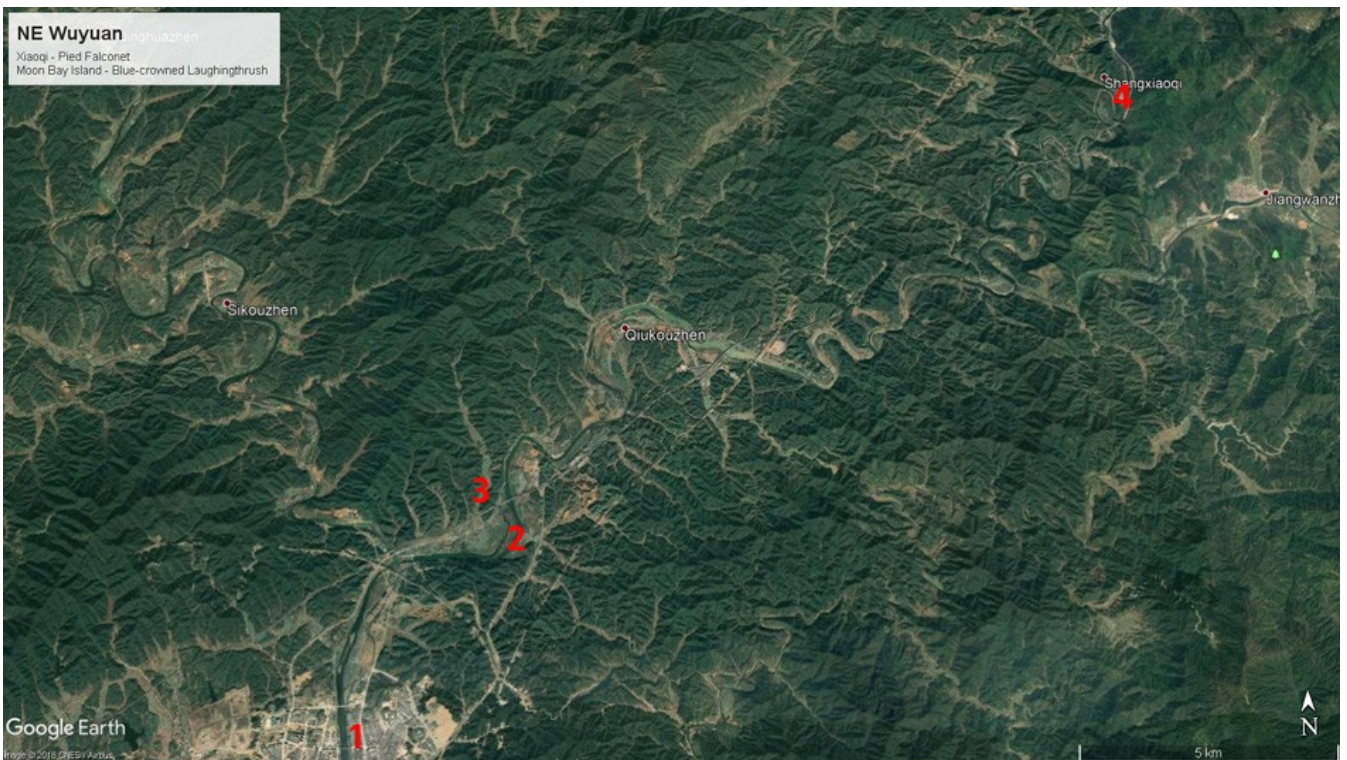
MAP 4 Poyang Hu (ENE Nancheng), along embankment of Fuhe River. **1** Good vantage point of river. Thousands of Spotted Redshanks. **2** Former Lotus Pond, water level has risen making these fields empty of cranes. **3** Good vantage point of river. **4** Chengjia Pond in north, Siberian Cranes at distance. **5** Lunch spot.



MAP 5 Poyang Hu (NE Yongxiu). **1** Good morning birding along channel and paddyfields. **2** Across natural grasslands to south-eastern shores of Dahu Pond. Observation tower (very long distance to birds). **3** Great pond, scanned from north. Many Siberian Cranes, 3000+ Coots. **4** Baer's Pochard in western part of pond. **5** Boat trip along Xiushui River starting from here. **6** Landing point northern shore of Xiushui River. **7** At least 30 minutes walking across grasslands to southern shore of large bay, main area for Siberian and White-naped Cranes, and thousands of distant Tundra Swans. **8** Dahu Pond.



MAP 6 Le'an River, 10 km S of Wuyuan, Jiangxi. **1** Village. **2** Bridge over Le'an River, spot for Long-billed Plover. **3** Small paddyfields and scrubs at river shore. **4** Main area for Scaly-sided Mergansers. Multiple hides along both sides of the river. **5** Forest-birds along road to valley to the west. **6** Small path starts at northern end of village along river and forest to paddyfields. Fine habitat – bad weather. Possibly good for Short-tailed Parrotbill.



MAP 7 NE Wuyuan, Jiangxi. 1 Wuyuan 2 Moon Bay Island (Raoheyuan National Wetland Park), small bridge at northern end. Breeding area for Blue-crowned Laughingthrush. 3 Valley with paddyfields. 4 Xiaoqi village. Pied Falconet stake-out. Forest-birds in surroundings - hard to access good forest.



MAP 8 Century Park, Shanghai. We birded mainly the forested western part of the park. 1 White's Thrush. 2 Good area. Grey-backed Thrush.



MAP 9 Cape Nanhui, SE Shanghai. **1** Park here – dirt track leading north through reeds for Reed Parrotbill and Pallas's Reed Bunting. **2** Parking lot with trees. Attracts migrants during spring and autumn. **3** A few patches of 'Microforest' along road. Largest and best here.

Daily log

Day 1: December 1st

After surprisingly smooth transfers at Beijing and Shanghai we arrived at Wuhan (Capital of Hubei province and a population of around 9 million) at 18:45. Our guide Alex waited for us at the exit and we soon headed off toward Dongzhai Nature Reserve in Henan province. Traffic on the highway was less than sparse and the drive took around two hours. As we reached our simple guest house Baiyuan Village Hotel we were served some delicious dumplings.

Day 2: December 2nd

Alarm at 06:00, a short distance with the car uphill and walked the last hundred meters to the large Pheasant-hide. We waited for an hour and a half in first daylight although nothing happened. But now we were eager to start birding. A flock of Chestnut Bulbuls and Chinese Hwameis appeared otherwise nothing much else. On the way back to the hotel for breakfast a glorious male Reeves's Pheasant stood on the road. And as it slowly walked away up a slope another two males joined in. Tension off, main target under the belt! While breakfast was prepared we birded around the hotel and found Brown-flanked Bush Warbler and a small party of Masked Laughingthrush, Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler, many Vinous-throated Parrotbills and a sole Grey-hooded Fulvetta.

After breakfast we headed south along a valley with paddyfields. Soon we found a pair of dirty Crested Ibises in a pond. We stopped at various places along the road and Crested Kingfisher, Collared Crow and Grey-capped Greenfinch were added. Along a ditch with White-crowned Forktail, there were several Black-faced Buntings, a male Daurian Redstart and a flock of at least 30 Rustic Buntings.

At the large Jiepai Reservoir there were some nice scrubs around a deserted house at the north-eastern shore of the Reservoir. Lots of new birds appeared: Collared Finchbill, many Red-flanked Bluetails, Yellow-throated Buntings, Brown-breasted Bulbul, Yellow-browed Warbler, Rufous-faced Warbler, Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker. Closer to the water we found the only Meadow Bunting and only Water Pipit of the trip both birds being wary and disappeared soon. Before getting back to the car we flushed a Collared Owlet.

The afternoon started with a slow walk from the hotel upwards to the forest. Besra and a flock of Silver-throated Bushtits were new. Back at the Pheasant-hide later in the afternoon we waited for maybe half an hour before an imposing male appeared at the slope above the clearing. For one hour we watched the impressive

Reeves's Pheasant as it slowly made its way down to eye-level and gave amazing views. We couldn't have asked for anything better.

Day 3: December 3rd

Since we had great views of both the pheasant and the ibis we had some leisure birding today. Early morning we took a stroll around the guest house. The only new birds being a few Chinese Grosbeaks and a fly-by Common Pheasant. After breakfast we headed down the valley to the paddyfields and most of the places we went to yesterday. More good views of Crested Ibis, in flight the pink colouration stands out. Along a small stream we found a flock of 15 Little Buntings and a single Carrion Crow joined a small group of Collared Crows. The entrance road to the Lingshan Temple looked nice for buntings however we couldn't pick up much new. We found a feeding group of Vinous-throated Parrotbills, Streak-throated Scimitar Babblers and among them some Daurian Redstarts, Pallas's Leaf-Warblers and two newly-split Swinhoe's White-eyes.

Back at the Reservoir we had great views of a Speckled Piculet and a Brown-flanked Bush Warbler. We walked along the road for awhile but mostly quiet. It was time to head back for lunch. After that a long uneventful seven hour drive to Yongxiu for a three nights stay and the main attraction of the trip: the famous Poyang Hu, wintering grounds for Siberian Cranes and various wildfowl.



Collared Crow, Dongzhai.



Reeves's Pheasant, Dongzhai.

Day 4: December 4th

We left the hotel at 06:30, still dark outside, for an hours drive east to Nancheng and then north-east toward Poyang Hu. At first light we were still driving across flat cultivated land along a ditch, a few small flocks of Common Cranes told us we were approaching the lake. A first flock of Red-billed Starlings sat on some wires. The driver stopped suddenly as two Brown Crake stood at the edge of the road. They were slowly feeding in short grass taking little notice of us as we got some great shots from the car.

Very excited we made a first stop at a large observation tower at the outer domains of the lake. We quickly scanned the surroundings and could soon notice as stated in previous reports that the observation conditions are tough at Poyang Hu, distances to birds were long, really long, too long. This was an unfortunate theme of the day and made birding this part of Poyang Hu a bit frustrating. You see a lot of birds, at some places, incredible numbers, although too often too far away to say anything about them other than "ducks" or "geese". On the south side of the road numbers were extraordinary and later in the day we returned here, which proved to be a wise decision.

At next stop an Oriental Stork appeared overhead, one of the main targets! The massive bill give the bird an impression of a Black-necked Stork rather than an European White Stork. We walked along an embankment and on the far side of an enormous pool there were plentiful of ducks and geese and among them at least 30+ Swan Geese. At next place an Eastern Yellow Wagtail (the only one of the trip) and back at the car two flocks of Middendorff's Taiga Bean Geese flew over-head and among the second group there was a tiny companion: how much I tried it still came out as a Greater White-fronted Goose...

At Nanjixiang Island we scanned a very exciting pool to the west with a nice selection of ducks and waterbirds. We stood on an embankment and had birds on pretty decent distance for once, there was a large flock of Pochards and we did our best trying to dig out a Baer's, however only a few Tufted Ducks were found. A pair of Hooded Cranes flew by. Three guys suddenly appeared carrying a Swarovski scope, some local bird-counters. They belonged to the local club/authority and were unfortunately not happy with our presence and we were told to back off for no particular reason other than being foreign birders. Needles to say a bit rude... We headed back before getting too angry...

On the way back we did some effort trying to scan the bird-filled pool previously mentioned close to the first observation tower. We climbed a small bank covered with reed and found ourselves with bearable views of the northern shores of this magnificent lake. It was a frenzy. At least 10000+ ducks, probably many many more. Half of them Eurasian Wigeons and the other half Falcated Ducks. Among them we tried to scrutinize every bird looking for that Baikal Teal or something equally good. There were a few dozens of Eurasian Teals, five Northern Pintails and a locally rare Garganey, a female! And also a surprise: Pheasant-tailed Jacana. A splendid adult male Eastern Marsh Harrier did his best to flush the ducks.

We now had to leave this part of Poyang Hu and move a bit further south and east. It was almost an hours drive back toward Nancheng and then again heading out toward the lake following the northern embankment of Fuhe River. It was well after lunch-time and we only had time for a few stops. A Chinese Grey Shrike sat on a wire next to the road and we made a halt. At three-four places we made a stop to scan the nearby riverbeds and sand flats. There were incredible numbers of Spotted Redshanks, maybe 10000+, hundreds of Eurasian Spoonbills a flock of Common Mergansers.

We had a very late lunch at a garden house, once again tasty. On the way back it soon started to rain. We did a few more stops but it was grim weather. At one natural pool Chengjia Pond we finally found some Siberian Cranes, although at a very far distance. Many Oriental Storks and a few White-naped Cranes joined them. The ponds formerly known in previous reports as Lotus Ponds no longer hold any birds since water levels has risen. Rain increased and we soon decided enough was enough, called it a day, and went back to Yongxiu.

Day 5: December 5th

At first light we were at a small channel through paddyfields (Map 5:1). We slowly walked along the road, there were constant 'ticks' from buntings, but we could only find Black-faced Buntings. A few Dusky Warblers showed and a juvenile Black-winged Kite hovered. At one place across the channel we saw enormous mist-nets... Did probably not belong to a bird ringing station... No wonder bird-numbers decline... A couple of Brown Crakes and also nice views of Red-billed Starlings. At a house with a barking dog we found a handsome Chestnut-eared Bunting. After a packed breakfast we headed out across the natural grasslands toward Poyang Hu. More Chestnut-eared Buntings were found, Plain Prinia and Oriental Skylark were added.

We had a scheduled boat-trip at 09:00, and the boat-owner met us timely. The outboard motor gave a pounding noise and soon we were on our way. We went upriver for some 30 minutes heading west along Xiushui River and a beautiful Mandarin Duck followed the boat for a while. At a sandbar there were Oriental Stork, a few "Mongolian" (Vega) Gulls, an adult dark Peregrine Falcon and some 1000+ Great Cormorants resting. We landed on the northern shore of the river and walked for some 30-45 minutes across completely bush- and treeless grasslands.

Along the walk we had some flighty views of Marsh Grassbirds, a flock of Richard's Pipits, Hen Harrier and we heard continuous calls from distant Tundra Swans far away. We walked through a small patch of reeds where a few more Marsh Grassbirds were found giving great views before we reached the southern shore of a large bay of Poyang Hu. To the left there were loose gatherings of Siberian, White-naped and Hooded Cranes, giving much closer views than yesterday. And lots of Spotted Redshanks, both Oriental and Eurasian Skylarks side by side and a single Red-throated Pipit. It was a very nice atmosphere to this remote area – probably the most attractive sceneries of our visit to Poyang Hu. On the way back we luckily flushed a Japanese Quail and over-head we had several beautiful flocks of Siberian Cranes flying to and from feeding areas. Eventually we returned for lunch.

In the afternoon we started with an excellent pond on the east side of the "island". Here were lots of feeding Siberian Cranes and amazing numbers of Coots 3000+ but probably many more, but oddly enough very few ducks. We drove across to the other side on a smaller dirt track. Unfortunately we had to stop since the road went from dirt track to a muddy inferno. We stepped out of the car and made the best decision of the trip: Let's walk. It was not so far, maybe 15-20 minutes through forest along the track. A Grey-backed Thrush showed briefly along the way. At the end of the track vast grasslands appeared, and it was pretty close to Xiushui River not far from where we've went with the boat but on the southern side. We reached another lake and started to scan. Immediately we found two diving ducks, one was a male Tufted Duck but the other one, could it be, yes indeed, a Baer's Pochard. Wow! We went closer and could verify the id. It was not a Ferruginous Duck, it was not a Common Pochard (and not a Canvasback!). It was a dark brown individual with very little white in the rear end and on the sides. Long bill, dark yellowish iris and rounded head shape. One of the rarest ducks in the world. IUCN estimates the world population to 150-700 birds! Only five minutes later both ducks took off and disappeared never to be seen again. How lucky was that, it was the very last pond we checked in Poyang Hu.

On the way back to Yongxiu we stopped briefly at some reedy grasslands and was able to find Yellow-bellied Prinia (has been proposed as a split Chinese Prinia *P. sonitans*) at in agricultural areas close to where we were in the morning a Chinese Grey Shrike and another two Brown Crakes.

Day 6: December 6th

It was time to leave Poyang Hu and head for the hills further east in Jiangxi, around Wuyuan. It took around 3,5 hours to drive there from Yongxiu, once again using impeccable highways. We eventually crossed the bridge over Le'an River, reaching prime Merganser-habitat and started to scan the river from the western side. It was raining on and off, a Peregrine Falcon went after a Moorhen, Olive-backed Pipits and many Black-faced Buntings in the scrubs. It didn't take any longer than half an hour before a pair of Scaly-sided Mergansers flew upriver, what an excitement! We walked further north along the river passing many hides on both sides of the river. A small feeding flock appeared and we could add Huet's Fulvetta to the list. From the hides we now had closer views of at least 15 Scaly-sided Mergansers as they rested on rocks in the middle of the stream.

Rain increased throughout the day unfortunately. After lunch (which was delayed for almost an hour, the only logistic downside we experienced during the trip, always smooth otherwise) we tried a small path from the village at the bridge going north along the east side of the river. Habitat here was better than anything else we've seen, fine bamboos, but it was raining hard and there was zero activity, we turned back. Too bad, this was one of the better sites for Short-tailed Parrotbill. An hour later there was a decrease of rain and we made one last try going on a small road west from the place we were before lunch. We soon ran into a small feeding flock, this one contained a pair of Grey-sided Scimitar Babblers. An endemic to South-east China. Moments later a Chinese Bamboo Partridge quickly ran across the road twice, disappearing. And lastly a flock of Chestnut Bulbuls showed.



Yellow-browed Bunting, Moon Bay Island, Wuyuan.



Scaly-sided Merganser, Le'an River, Wuyuan.

Day 7: December 7th

We headed north-east out of Wuyuan to a small village called Xiaoqi famous among birders for its breeding Pied Falconets. The set-up is quite extraordinary as you watch the birds from a rooftop. At least 3 or 4 of the buildings close to the large tree where the Falconets breed have large constructions on top of the buildings giving shelter to bird photographers. It was really cold and a bit windy and light rain this morning. Usually the Falconets pop up around 7.15. But we had to wait until 7.40 (almost getting nervous) before a single Pied Falconet came flying and landed on one of the rigged sticks at the top of the large tree. It sat there for some 10 minutes and we had close views in the scope before taking off. On the way out the owner of the house said the Falconets sometimes don't show if the weather is too grim.

There's a small stream beneath the village where we soon found some White-crowned Forktails and a pair of Brown Dippers and sometimes Little Forktail is found here. We walked the road in the surroundings of the village. All hillsides are more or less forested however it's hard to access good habitat. At a parking lot in the western outskirts of the village we came across a feeding party with Huet's Fulvetta, a few Pallas's Leaf Warblers and an unexpected Green Shrike-babbler. Another kilometre or so, back toward Wuyuan, we crossed a small bridge and walked some tea-plantations, regrettably not reaching any good habitat. An Eurasian Woodcock was flushed.

Next stop was at Moon Bay Island or Rauheyuan National Wetland Park. The only (?) well-known breeding site for Blue-crowned Laughingthrush. The Laughingthrushes disperse to unknown grounds during the winter. Before going to the island we checked out a small valley with paddyfields on the opposite side of the road. Rufous-faced Warbler and a flock of Yellow-bellied Tits on the way and in the paddyfields and the best we could dig up was the only Stejneger's Stonechat of the trip. On the return walk two Grey-chinned Minivets flew over.

We crossed a small bridge to the northern side of the island. Some smaller cultivations here otherwise the area is forested and scrubby. Just as we approached the valley buntings appeared. It was a large gathering of Yellow-browed Buntings, at least 25 birds, Orange-bellied Leafbirds called and a pair of Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpeckers was found. On the river there was a flock of 15 Mandarin Ducks. However we could not find any

Tristram's Bunting sometimes observed here, though we could easily have spent another hour here but we had a train to catch. After lunch we boarded the bullet train to Shanghai-Hongqiao. Steven had booked us at a fancy hotel immediately at the check-in counters for the flights, so no need for any long transfers on our last day. But we had one full birding day in Shanghai first.

Day 8: December 8th

Arrived at Century Park around 07:30, it was a chilly, still cloudy and light rain on and off. We focused on the forested western areas of the park. After only 5 minutes we saw a White's Thrush take off, and a minute later probably the same bird came flying past us very close chased by a Chinese Blackbird. Great start, but unfortunate that we never saw it on ground. We meticulously made our way, scanning every bird and especially every thrush. We had multiple sightings of Pale Thrush in the park and at the western tip of the park, a more deserted part, we found a few Grey-backed Thrushes, Red-billed Starlings though a Sparrowhawk got away unidentified. On the way back in a small flock of Pallas's Leaf Warblers, there were two Goldcrests and a single Black-throated Tit which looked a bit misplaced between the skyscrapers.

After an early lunch we headed out to Cape Nanhui. It was windy, it rained harder, and we had a main target to go, the Reed Parrotbill. It took us almost three hours in the reeds before we could nail a pair down, they wouldn't show easily crawling at the base of the reeds. It was really hard work in the terrible weather. Quite a few Pallas's Reed Buntings and two Richard's Pipits offered some consolation. With not much light left we drove a bit north and stopped at the few patches of "Microforest" along the coastline. These areas must be a bliss during migration time. There were many *Emberiza*-buntings, although they were hard to nail down in the fading light. A lone Smew flew past us, a nice surprise. Among the trees we added Eurasian Hoopoe, Dusky Thrush, Pale Thrush, Yellow-throated Bunting, Little Bunting and lastly an Eurasian Woodcock. Too soon our time was up and we had to go back to our hotel. We bid Alex farewell, it was time to wrap up the trip.

Day 9: December 9th

Morning flight from Shanghai to Beijing. A coffee at Starbucks... then on to Stockholm.



Marsh Grassbird, Poyang Hu.



Siberian Crane, Poyang Hu.



Chestnut-eared Bunting, Poyang Hu.



Baer's Pochard (right) and Tufted Duck (left), Poyang Hu.

List of birds: East China, December 1st-9th 2018

Following IOC World Bird List 8.2 (June 2018) (www.worldbirdnames.org). In total: 164 species, 14 species on The IUCN Red List for Threatened Species. Subspecies notations are foremost literature-based.

- 1 **Greylag Goose** *Anser anser rubrirostris*
200 Poyang Hu (4/12).
- 2 **Swan Goose** *Anser cygnoides* **VU**
50 Poyang Hu (4/12), 50 Poyang Hu (5/12).
- 3 **Taiga Bean Goose** *Anser fabalis middendorffii*
20 Poyang Hu (4/12).
- 4 **Tundra Bean Goose** *Anser serrirostris serrirostris*
4000+ Poyang Hu (4/12), 500 Poyang Hu (5/12). The figures includes undetermined Bean Geese. We believe the majority of birds we saw were Tundra and not Taiga Bean Geese.
- 5 **Greater White-fronted Goose** *Anser albifrons*
100 Poyang Hu (4/12), 35 Poyang Hu (5/12).
- 6 **Tundra Swan** *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*
400+ Poyang Hu (4/12), 1000+ Poyang Hu (5/12), 25 Nancheng e.r. (6/12).
- 7 **Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*
15 Poyang Hu, Map 4:3 (4/12).
- 8 **Mandarin Duck** *Aix galericulata*
1 m Poyang Hu River (5/12), 1 m Poyang Hu (5/12), 16 Wuyuan (6/12), 15 Rauheyuan National Wetland Park (7/12).
- 9 **Garganey** *Spatula querquedula*
1 f Poyang Hu, Map 3:2 (4/12).
- 10 **Gadwall** *Mareca strepera*
20 Poyang Hu (4/12).
- 11 **Falcated Duck** *Mareca falcata* **NT**
5000+ Poyang Hu, Map 3:2 (4/12).
- 12 **Eurasian Wigeon** *Mareca penelope*
5000+ Poyang Hu, Map 3:2 (4/12).
- 13 **Eastern Spot-billed Duck** *Anas zonorhyncha*
6 Dongzhai (2/12), 1000+ Poyang Hu (4/12), 200 Poyang Hu (5/12), 20 Wuyuan (6/12), 300 Nanhui (8/12).
- 14 **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*
40 Poyang Hu (4/12), 20 Poyang Hu (5/12).
- 15 **Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*
3 Poyang Hu, Map 3:2 (4/12).
- 16 **Eurasian Teal** *Anas crecca*
2000+ Poyang Hu, Map 3:4 (4/12).
- 17 **Common Pochard** *Aythya ferina*
300+ Poyang Hu (4/12).
- 18 **Baer's Pochard** *Aythya baeri* **EN**
1 Poyang Hu, Map 5:4 (5/12).
- 19 **Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*
5 Poyang Hu (4/12), 1 m Poyang Hu (5/12).
- 20 **Smew** *Mergellus albellus*
1 f/1cy Nanhui (8/12).
- 21 **Common Merganser** *Mergus merganser*
20 Poyang Hu, Map 4:3 (4/12).
- 22 **Scaly-sided Merganser** *Mergus squamatus* **EN**
5m10f Wuyuan (6/12).
- 23 **Japanese Quail** *Coturnix japonica* **NT**
1 Poyang Hu, Map 5:7 (5/12).
- 24 **Chinese Bamboo Partridge** *Bambusicola thoracicus*
1 Wuyuan (6/12).
- 25 **Reeves's Pheasant** *Syrnaticus reevesii* **VU**
3m+3f+1m+1f Dongzhai (2/12).
- 26 **Common Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*
1 m Dongzhai (3/12), 8 Poyang Hu (5/12), 2 Nanhui (8/12).

- 27 **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
Seen on 7 days.
- 28 **Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*
400 Poyang Hu (4/12), 150 Poyang Hu (5/12).
- 29 **Oriental Stork** *Ciconia boyciana* **EN**
300 Poyang Hu (4/12), 40 Poyang Hu (5/12).
- 30 **Crested Ibis** *Nipponia nippon* **EN**
2 Dongzhai (2/12), 6 Dongzhai (3/12).
- 31 **Eurasian Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*
1000+ Poyang Hu (4/12), 200 Poyang Hu (5/12), 1 Nanhui (8/12).
- 32 **Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*
3 Wuyuan (6/12), 2 Century Park (8/12).
- 33 **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*
150 Poyang Hu (4/12), 40 Poyang Hu (5/12), 15 Nanhui (8/12).
- 34 **Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*
1 Poyang Hu, Map 3:1 (4/12).
- 35 **Great Egret** *Ardea alba*
15 Poyang Hu (5/12).
- 36 **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*
Seen daily.
- 37 **Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*
Seen on three days.
- 38 **Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus vociferus*
1 1cy Poyang Hu, Map 5:1 (5/12).
- 39 **Black Eagle** *Ictinaetus malaiensis malaiensis*
2 Xiaoqi, Wuyuan (7/12).
- 40 **Besra** *Accipiter virgatus*
1 Dongzhai (2/12).
- 41 **Eurasian Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*
1 m Dongzhai (3/12)
Sparrowhawk sp *Accipiter sp.*
1 Dongzhai (2/12), 1 Dongzhai (3/12), 1 Xiaoqi, Wuyuan (7/12), 1 Century Park (8/12).
- 42 **Eastern Marsh Harrier** *Circus spilonotus*
8 Poyang Hu (4/12), 4 Poyang Hu (5/12).
- 43 **Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*
2 f Poyang Hu, Map 5:7 (5/12), 1 m Nanhui (8/12).
- 44 **Eastern Buzzard** *Buteo japonicus*
2 Poyang Hu (4/12), 2 Poyang Hu (5/12), 1 Wuyuan (6/12).
- 45 **Brown Crake** *Amaurornis akool coccineipes*
2 Poyang Hu (4/12), 5 Poyang Hu, Map 5:1 (5/12).
- 46 **Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*
Seen on 5 days.
- 47 **Eurasian Coot** *Fulica atra*
200 Poyang Hu (4/12), 3000+ Map 5:3 (5/12).
- 48 **Siberian Crane** *Leucogeranus leucogeranus* **CR**
20 Poyang Hu, Map 4:4 (4/12), 350 Poyang Hu (5/12).
- 49 **White-naped Crane** *Antigone vipio* **VU**
5 Poyang Hu, Map 4:4 (4/12), 50 Poyang Hu (5/12).
- 50 **Common Crane** *Grus grus*
100 Poyang Hu (4/12), 10 Poyang Hu (5/12).
- 51 **Hooded Crane** *Grus monacha* **VU**
2 Poyang Hu, Map 4:5 (4/12), 20 Poyang Hu (5/12).
- 52 **Pied Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*
500 Poyang Hu, Map 4:3 (4/12).
- 53 **Northern Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*
25 Poyang Hu (4/12), 20 Poyang Hu (5/12).
- 54 **Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*
4 Poyang Hu (4/12).
- 55 **Pheasant-tailed Jacana** *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*

- 1 1cy Poyang Hu, Map 3:2 (4/12).
- 56 **Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa melanuroides* NT
200 Poyang Hu (4/12).
- 57 **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*
5 Poyang Hu (4/12).
- 58 **Eurasian Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*
1 Xiaoqi, Wuyuan (7/12), 1 Nanhui (Microforest) (8/12).
- 59 **Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*
1 Poyang Hu (4/12), 15 Poyang Hu (5/12), 3 Wuyuan (6/12), 3 Nanhui (8/12).
- 60 **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*
2 Poyang Hu (4/12), 1 Poyang Hu (5/12), 1 Wuyuan (6/12).
- 61 **Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*
5 Poyang Hu (4/12).
- 62 **Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*
10000+ Poyang Hu (4/12), 200 Poyang Hu (5/12).
- 63 **Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*
25 Poyang Hu (4/12), 10 Poyang Hu (5/12), 2 Wuyuan (6/12).
- 64 **Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*
50+ Poyang Hu (5/12), 10 e.r. Wuyuan (6/12).
- 65 **Vega Gull** *Larus vegae*
(*Ssp. mongolicus*) 2 Poyang Hu (4/12), 5 Poyang Hu (5/12). (*Ssp. undetermined*) 4 Nanhui (8/12).
- 66 **Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida*
4 Poyang Hu (4/12).
- 67 **Rock Dove** *Columba livia* (domestic)
Seen on four days.
- 68 **Oriental Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia orientalis*
Seen in good numbers on six days.
- 69 **Spotted Dove** *Spilopelia chinensis*
Seen in good numbers on six days.
- 70 **Collared Owlet** *Glaucidium brodeii*
1 Dongzhai (2/12).
- 71 **Asian Barred Owlet** *Glaucidium cuculoides*
1 Dongzhai (2/12).
- 72 **White-throated Kingfisher** *Halcyon smyrnensis*
2 Poyang Hu (4/12), 2 Poyang Hu (5/12).
- 73 **Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*
2 Dongzhai (2/12), 1 Poyang Hu (4/12), 1 Poyang Hu (5/12), 1 S Wuyuan (6/12).
- 74 **Crested Kingfisher** *Megaceryle lugubris*
1+2 Dongzhai (2/12), 2+1 Dongzhai (3/12).
- 75 **Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*
6 Poyang Hu (4/12), 10 Poyang Hu (5/12).
- 76 **Eurasian Hoopoe** *Upopa epops*
2 Nanhui Microforest (8/12).
- 77 **Speckled Piculet** *Picumnus innominatus*
1 Lingshan Temple, Dongzhai (3/12), 1 Dongzhai Reservoir (3/12).
- 78 **Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker** *Yungipicus canicapillus*
2 Dongzhai (4/12), 2 Dongzhai (5/12), 2 Moon Bay Island, Wuyuan (7/12).
- 79 **Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*
1 Dongzhai (2/12), 1 Dongzhai (3/12), 1 S Wuyuan (6/12), 1 Xiaoqi, Wuyuan (7/12).
- 80 **Pied Falconet** *Microhierax melanoleucos*
2 Xiaoqi, Wuyuan (7/12).
- 81 **Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*
2 Poyang Hu (5/12), 1 Moon Bay Island, Wuyuan (7/12).
- 82 **Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*
4 Poyang Hu (5/12), 1 S Wuyuan (6/12), 2 Nanhui (8/12).
- 83 **Grey-chinned Minivet** *Pericrocotus solaris*
2 Moon Bay Island, Wuyuan (7/12).
- 84 **Long-tailed Shrike** *Lanius schach*
Seen on seven days.

- 85 **Chinese Grey Shrike** *Lanius sphenocercus*
1 Poyang Hu, Map 4:1 (4/12), 1 Poyang Hu, Map 5:1 (5/12).
- 86 **Green Shrike-babbler** *Pteruthius xanthochlorus pallidus*
1 Xiaoqi, Wuyuan (7/12).
- 87 **Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*
2 Dongzhai (2/12), 4 Dongzhai (4/12).
- 88 **Azure-winged Magpie** *Cyanopica cyanus*
10 Dongzhai (2/12), 10+4 Dongzhai (3/12), 20 Century Park (8/12).
- 89 **Red-billed Blue Magpie** *Urocissa erythroryncha*
10 Dongzhai (2/12), 8 Dongzhai (3/12).
- 90 **Grey Treepie** *Dendrocitta formosae sinica*
2 S Wuyuan (6/12).
- 91 **Oriental Magpie** *Pica serica serica*
25 Dongzhai (2/12), 40 Dongzhai (3/12), 1 Poyang Hu (4/12).
- 92 **Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone orientalis*
1 Dongzhai (3/12).
- 93 **Collared Crow** *Corvus torquatus* NT
3 Dongzhai (2/12), 20 Dongzhai (3/12).
- 94 **Yellow-bellied Tit** *Pardaliparus venustulus*
5 Dongzhai (2/12), 3 Dongzhai (3/12), 8 Moon Bay Island, Wuyuan (7/12).
- 95 **Japanese Tit** *Parus minor*
Seen on five days.
- 96 **Chinese Penduline Tit** *Remiz consobrinus*
30 Poyang Hu, Map 3:4 (4/12).
- 97 **Oriental Skylark** *Alauda gulgula*
50 Poyang Hu (5/12).
- 98 **Eurasian Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*
2 Poyang Hu (4/12), 10 Poyang Hu (5/12).
- 99 **Collared Finchbill** *Spizixos semitorques*
Max 25 Dongzhai (2-3/12), 20 S Wuyuan (6/12), 60 Xiaoqi, Wuyuan (7/12).
- 100 **Brown-breasted Bulbul** *Pycnonotus xanthorrhous*
2 Dongzhai (2/12), 5 Dongzhai (3/12).
- 101 **Light-vented Bulbul** *Pycnonotus sinensis*
Seen daily.
- 102 **Mountain Bulbul** *Ixos mcclllandii*
2 Dongzhai (2/12), 2 S Wuyuan (6/12).
- 103 **Chestnut Bulbul** *Hemixos castanonotus*
15 Dongzhai (2/12), 4 S Wuyuan (6/12).
- 104 **Rufous-faced Warbler** *Abroscopus albogularis*
1 Dongzhai Reservoir (2/12), 1 Moon Bay Island, Wuyuan (6/12).
- 105 **Brown-flanked Bush Warbler** *Horornis fortipes*
3 Dongzhai (2/12), 2 Dongzhai (3/12).
- 106 **Silver-throated Bushtit** *Aegithalos glaucogularis*
15 Dongzhai (2/12), 3 Dongzhai (3/12).
- 107 **Black-throated Bushtit** *Aegithalos concinnus*
Max 20 Dongzhai (2-3/12), 20 S Wuyuan (6/12), 20 Xiaoqi, Wuyuan (7/12), 1 Century Park (8/12).
- 108 **Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*
1+1 Dongzhai (2/12).
- 109 **Pallas's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus*
Max 5 Dongzhai (2-3/12), 1 S Wuyuan (6/12), 4 Xiaoqi, Wuyuan (7/12), 8 Century Park (8/12).
- 110 **Dusky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatus*
3 Poyang Hu, Map 5:1 (5/12).
- 111 **Marsh Grassbird** *Helopsaltes pryeri sinensis*
5 Poyang Hu, Map 5:7 (5/12), 2 Nanhui (8/12).
- 112 **Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*
10 Poyang Hu (5/12).
- 113 **Yellow-bellied Prinia** *Prinia flaviventris sonitans*
1 Poyang Hu, Map 5:2 (5/12), 1 S Wuyuan (6/12).
- 114 **Plain Prinia** *Prinia inornata extensicauda*

- 6 Poyang Hu (5/12), 2 S Wuyuan (6/12), 5 Moon Bay Island, Wuyuan (7/12), 3 Nanhui (8/12).
- 115 Grey-sided Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus swinhoei*
2 S Wuyuan (6/12).
- 116 Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*
Max 10 Dongzhai (2-3/12), 1 S Wuyuan (6/12).
- 117 Rufous-capped Babbler** *Stachyridopsis ruficeps*
2 S Wuyuan (6/12), 2 Moon Bay Island (7/12).
- 118 Huet's Fulvetta** *Alcippe hueti*
10 S Wuyuan (6/12), 5 Moon Bay Island, Wuyuan (7/12).
- 119 Chinese Hwamei** *Garrulax canorus*
20 Dongzhai (2/12), 2 Dongzhai (3/12), 2 Poyang Hu (5/12).
- 120 Masked Laughingthrush** *Garrulax perspicillatus*
Max 20 Dongzhai (2-3/12), 5 Poyang Hu (5/12), 3 S Wuyuan (6/12).
- 121 Grey-hooded Fulvetta** *Fulvetta cinereiceps*
1 Dongzhai (2/12).
- 122 Vinous-throated Parrotbill** *Sinosuthora webbiana*
Seen on six days.
- 123 Reed Parrotbill** *Paradoxornis heudei* **NT**
2 Nanhui (8/12).
- 124 Swinhoe's White-eye** *Zosterops simplex*
4 Longshan, Dongzhai (3/12).
- 125 Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*
2 Century Park (8/12).
- 126 Crested Myna** *Acridotheres cristatellus*
Seen on five days.
- 127 Red-billed Starling** *Spodiopsar sericeus*
500+ Poyang Hu (4/12), 200+ Poyang Hu (5/12), 20 Wuyuan (7/12), 8 Century Park (8/12).
- 128 White-cheeked Starling** *Spodiopsar cineraceus*
Max 15 Poyang Hu (4-5/12).
- 129 Black-collared Starling** *Gracupica nigricollis*
3 Poyang Hu (4/12), 2 Poyang Hu (5/12), 1 S Wuyuan (6/12), 1 Wuyuan (7/12).
- 130 White's Thrush** *Zoothera aurea*
1 Century Park (8/12).
- 131 Grey-backed Thrush** *Turdus hortulorum*
2 Poyang Hu (5/12), 5 Century Park (8/12).
- 132 Chinese Blackbird** *Turdus mandarinus*
2 Poyang Hu (4/12), 1 Poyang Hu (5/12), 17 Xiaoqi, Wuyuan (7/12), 100 Century Park (8/12).
- 133 Pale Thrush** *Turdus pallidus*
15 Century Park (8/12), 5 Nanhui Microforest (8/12).
- 134 Dusky Thrush** *Turdus eunomus*
1m Wuyuan (7/12), 2 Century Park (8/12), 1 Nanhui Microforest (8/12).
- 135 Oriental Magpie-Robin** *Copsychus saularis saularis*
Max 3 Dongzhai (2-3/12), 2 Poyang Hu (5/12), 1 Wuyuan (7/12).
- 136 Red-flanked Bluetail** *Tarsiger cyanurus*
Seen on six days, totally 25 individuals.
- 137 White-crowned Forktail** *Enicurus leschenaulti*
3 Dongzhai (2/12), 3 S Wuyuan (6/12), 2 Xiaoqi, Wuyuan (7/12).
- 138 Daurian Redstart** *Phoenicurus aureus*
Seen daily, totally 35 individuals.
- 139 Plumbeous Water Redstart** *Phoenicurus fuliginosus*
2 m S Wuyuan (6/12), 5 Xiaoqi, Wuyuan (7/12).
- 140 Stejneger's Stonechat** *Saxicola stejnegeri*
1 Moon Bay Island, Wuyuan (7/12).
- 141 Brown Dipper** *Cinclus pallasii*
1 S Wuyuan (6/12), 2 Xiaoqi, Wuyuan (7/12).
- 142 Orange-bellied Leafbird** *Chloropsis hardwickii*
2 Xiaoqi, Wuyuan (7/12), 1 Moon Bay Island, Wuyuan (7/12).
- 143 Eurasian Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*
Seen daily.

- 144 White-rumped Munia** *Lonchura striata*
40 Moon Bay Island, Wuyuan (7/12).
- 145 Scaly-breasted Munia** *Lonchura punctulata*
2 Poyang Hu (5/12), 20 S Wuyuan (6/12).
- 146 Eastern Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla tschutschensis taivana*
1 Poyang Hu, Map 3:5 (4/12).
- 147 Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*
1 Dongzhai (2/12), 2 S Wuyuan (6/12).
- 148 White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*
Ssp *ocularis*: 20+ Poyang Hu (4/12).
Ssp *leucopsis*: Seen on five days.
- 149 Richard's Pipit** *Anthus richardi*
7 Poyang Hu (5/12), 2 Nanhui (8/12).
- 150 Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni*
Seen on five days, totally 38 individuals.
- 151 Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus*
1 Poyang Hu (4/12), 1 Poyang Hu (5/12).
- 152 Buff-bellied Pipit** *Anthus rubescens japonicus*
Max 40 Poyang Hu (4-5/12), 15 Nanhui (8/12).
- 153 Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta blakistoni*
1 Jiepai Reservoir, Dongzhai (2/12).
- 154 Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*
Seen on five days.
- 155 Chinese Grosbeak** *Eophona migratoria*
Seen on six days.
- 156 Grey-capped Greenfinch** *Chloris sinica*
20 Dongzhai (2/12), 3+4 Dongzhai (3/12).
- 157 Meadow Bunting** *Emberiza cioides*
1 Jiepai Reservoir, Dongzhai (2/12).
- 158 Chestnut-eared Bunting** *Emberiza fucata*
9 Poyang Hu (5/12).
- 159 Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla*
15 Dongzhai (3/12), 1 Nanhui Microforest (8/12).
- 160 Yellow-browed Bunting** *Emberiza chrysophrys*
25 Moon Bay Island, Wuyuan (7/12).
- 161 Rustic Bunting** *Emberiza rustica*
30 Dongzhai (2/12).
- 162 Yellow-throated Bunting** *Emberiza elegans*
6 Dongzhai (2/12), 5 Dongzhai (3/12), 1 Nanhui Microforest (8/12).
- 163 Black-faced Bunting** *Emberiza spodocephala*
Seen on six days, totally 60 individuals.
- 164 Pallas's Reed Bunting** *Emberiza pallasii*
20 Nanhui (8/12).

Comments on some other birds NOT seen

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <i>Lesser White-fronted Goose</i> | Scarce/rare winter-guest at Poyang Hu. |
| <i>Baikal Teal</i> | Very rare at Poyang Hu. |
| <i>Eurasian Bittern</i> | Regular winter-guest at Poyang Hu. |
| <i>Swinhoe's Rail</i> | Reported winter-time at Poyang Hu, (almost) never seen on regular tours. |
| <i>Long-billed Plover</i> | At bridge over Le'an River. |
| <i>Short-tailed Parrotbill</i> | Uncommon resident around Wuyuan. |
| <i>Tristram's Bunting</i> | Regular/uncommon winter-guest around Wuyuan. |

Additional record shots



Chinese Grey Shrike, Poyang Hu.



Nice male Eastern Marsh Harrier, Poyang Hu.



Rustic Bunting, Dongzhai.



Brown Crake, Poyang Hu.



Yellow-throated Bunting, Dongzhai.



Besra, Dongzhai.



'Mongolian' Gull (*ssp mongolicus*), Poyang Hu. Note large white patches on p9 and p10.



Chinese Grosbeak, Wuyuan.



Pied Falconet, Xiaoqi, Wuyuan.



Grey-backed Thrush, Century Park, Shanghai.



Red-billed Starling, Poyang Hu.



Pallas's Reed Bunting, Cape Nanhui, Shanghai.

Additional trip shots



Jiepai Reservoir, Dongzhai.



Crested Ibis-habitat, Dongzhai Valley.



Boat-trip at Xiushui River, Poyang Hu.



Walking across grasslands, Poyang Hu.



Le'an River, Wuyuan.



Rain and reed-beds, Cape Nanhui.