

Eastern China

16th – 28th November 2025



Participants: Garry Armstrong, David Steele.

We were looking for an early winter break and had considered a trip to the Western Ghats in India when I discovered that Hainan Airlines were flying direct from Dublin to Beijing three times a week. I also found that the prices being charged for return flights in November were coming in at less than £500 including a checked bag, too good a deal to pass up.

Eastern China in winter held a number of mega lifers for me, Siberian Accentor, Siberian and Hooded Cranes, Oriental Stork, Crested Ibis, Scaly Sided Merganser, Pied Falconet, Reeves and Elliot's Pheasants and Cabot's Tragopan. David could add a few more that he needed, Relict and Saunders Gulls, and Black-faced Spoonbill. This would be a quick return to China for us as we had made a trip to Qinghai and northern Tibet in July.

With flights available we needed someone to organise things on the ground in China and a search on Cloudbirders, <https://www.cloudbirders.com/>, showed that a friend, Oscar Campbell, had birded the area a few years ago and had used **Steven An at China Birding Tours** to organise things for him. A quick email to Oscar and he confirmed that Steven had done a great job in organising their trip to the area.

We contacted Steven, <mailto:info@chinabirdingtours.com> and outlined our plans and targets for a trip along with the dates that we had selected. He came back very quickly and over the next few weeks a trip plan was agreed. We would spend three nights in the Beijing area before travelling south to the area of Poyang Lake and on, eventually ending up in Sanming in Fujian province before flying back to Beijing to catch our flight home. This changed shortly before we set off because of restrictions at one site near Beijing so we had one night less there and an extra night near Sanming.

We agreed with Steven that he would provide Chinese speaking guides. He provided four local guides with vehicles, Jiahua in Beijing, Mr Gao around Xinyang, Mr Wan around Poyang, and Mr Luo in Fujian. Jiahua actually spoke very good English, but we didn't have a problem with the other guides, Google Translate or the local equivalent worked well for us.

Apart from our international flights between Dublin and Beijing Steven organised three separate trips on the bullet trains and an internal flight back to Beijing. All these arrangements worked perfectly, the only hiccup was when, for some unknown reason, security at the train station at Xinyang Dong insisted on confiscating my tin of shaving foam, very strange!

For entering China, I didn't need a visa as I was travelling on an Irish passport. David, travelling on a British passport, did need a visa but he had obtained a two-year visa for our trip to Qinghai and Tibet, so no problems for us at immigration.

For the trip I bought a 14-day E-sim from Holafly which I activated when we landed. While free Wi-fi is available in hotels and restaurants in China many of the sites that we would normally use are blocked, the E-sim meant I could use WhatsApp and sites like Google Maps.

I also downloaded WeChat which is widely used in China and Steven set up a group for us to use during the trip linking in our guides as we went along.

For reference we had both used the Princeton Birds of China to prepare for the trip, but this guide doesn't have written species descriptions, just details on distribution, habitat etc, and is fairly weighty so we didn't bring it with us. Instead, we brought the McKinnon Guide to the Birds of China and Brazil's Birds of East Asia. The MacKinnon guide is poorly laid out and some of the illustrations are poor and the Brazil guide covers a very large area so contains a lot of information that was not relevant for this trip and is also getting a bit dated. Despite the limitations of these two guides we didn't encounter any identification problems that we couldn't figure out.

We can't recommend Steven highly enough, his organisation of the travel and guides was perfect, everything working exactly as planned, making for an excellent trip. Also a word of praise for all our guides who worked really hard to make sure we saw as many birds as possible, we ended up with 222 species seen and another 4 heard only.

Daily Diary

Sunday 16th November. Weather bright & clear but very cold.

Our flight arrived on time at 5am and we cleared immigration and collected our bags fairly quickly. Our guide, Jiahua, was waiting for us and we loaded the car and headed off on the 2.5-hour drive to Lingshan Mountain, clearing the Beijing rush hour traffic fairly easily and seeing our first Azure-winged Magpies and Carrion Crows of the trip from the car.

Our first stop was as we started to climb towards high ground when Jiahua spotted a flock moving through the roadside bushes. On exiting the car we realised how cold it was, with temperatures below zero and a cold wind blowing. The flock was Vinous-throated Parrotbills, a species we would see at most locations, plus a Dusky Thrush was sitting up in a tree. Moving on we stopped at a spot that Jiahua knew for Beijing Babbler but there was no sign although we did get our first Pallas's Rosefinch.

Reaching the highest part of the mountain the car showed the outside temperature as -8° plus the windchill which made it feel like -15°. We followed a path up a shallow valley, but birding was slow in the biting cold. A single Hill Pigeon and a few Oriental Magpies were seen, and we managed to dig out a couple of Asian Tits and a Eurasian Nuthatch. At the top of the valley, in a fenced off area by a road we found a single Meadow Bunting and a flock of Pallas's Rosefinches including two nice bright males. Heading back down the valley Jiahua pulled up sharply when he heard a Siberian Accentor call from some dense scrub. A quick burst of playback and the bird showed well in the bushes beside the track and then hopped up onto the top of a bush to give brilliant views. We now forgot how cold and tired we felt and headed down the valley with renewed enthusiasm, finding our first Red-throated Thrushes, a Godlewski's Bunting, several Willow Tits, and a single Marsh Tit before digging out a couple of Beijing Babblers near the bottom of the valley.

Moving lower we tried Jiahua's Beijing Babbler spot again but again no Babblers, but we did have another Siberian Accentor, not showing as well as the first bird, a couple of Long-tailed Rosefinches, several more Red-throated Thrushes and just before we moved on a flock of eight Greater Whitefronts flew over.

We headed back to the top area of the mountain but with the light fading and the temperature dropping we didn't have anything other than the flock of Pallas's Rosefinches.

We retreated to our homestay for dinner and bed, tired but happy that we had got great views of our main target bird for the area. Before we headed to bed, we discussed our options for the next day as we had allowed more time in the morning to look for the Accentor. With a few species that we would like to try for Japanese Waxwing was mentioned as a big target for David. Jiahua made a few calls and found that a small flock had been seen in a park in Beijing, so we set that as our target for the morning and turned in.

Monday 17th November. Weather bright, clear & cold.

To get to the park in Beijing we set off very early, breakfast would have to wait! We arrived at the park just after first light, it was cold and clear again but fortunately there was no wind

blowing. A fly over Bittern was a good start and Azure-winged Magpies and Oriental Magpies were common but very wary. After a bit of a walk, we had four Japanese Waxwings fly over our heads and perch in a distant tree. A quick walk and we were able to watch the birds perched up for a couple of minutes before they flew off not to be seen again.



Japanese Waxwings

Exploring a bit more of the park revealed a large reedbed area where a Black-crowned Night Heron did a couple of fly pasts, a Brown-cheeked Rail showed briefly for David and a Green Sandpiper flushed from a small pool.

Heading back to the car through a wooded area produced Coal, Japanese and Marsh Tits, Grey-capped Pygmy and Grey-headed Woodpeckers and a pair of Chinese Nuthatches. Near the car we had a smart male Daurian Redstart, a species we would see on every day of the trip.

We picked up something for breakfast at a café at the entrance to the park and then started the long drive to Tianjin on the coast. Along the way we had both Little and Great White Egrets, and as we neared the coast Black-headed Gulls became common.

Once at the coast we quickly picked up our main target, a single Relict Gull was with Black-headed Gulls and Avocets in a small inlet channel. At the main harbour area, we manoeuvred into a position out of the cold wind to scan the mudflats. There were at least four hundred gulls present and as we scanned, we realised that most were Relict Gulls, although we did pick out a couple of distant Vega Gulls also. There were numerous Curlews present along with several small groups of Dunlin and as we watched a large flock of Grey Plover dropped. Just offshore there was a flock of ducks, mostly Mallard but also a few Pintails and Shoveler. Further out there was a flock of Common Goldeneye and one Stejneger's Scoter was with them.

As we scanned through the gulls, we started to pick out numbers of Saunders Gulls, these birds seem to be constantly moving, with as many as forty being present at one stage and a few came close and gave excellent views.

After this we left the coast, happy to leave the cold wind behind, and moved a little way inland to a park area. We didn't see a lot here, but our only Hoopoe of the trip was present along with a few Oriental Turtle Doves and Silver-throated Tits and a flock of Oriental Storks soared in the distance.

Our final stop of the day was at a large marsh and as the sun started to dip and the temperature dropped, we were treated to a great assortment of birds. Several Hen Harriers were hunting the area, our only Chinese Grey Shrike of the trip was in roadside bushes, in the pools along the road a single Black-necked Grebe was present along with Great Crested and Little Grebes, the ducks present included Pintail, Eastern Spotbills, Ferruginous Ducks, Smew and Goosanders and a flock of Greater Flamingos was an unexpected site. The biggest surprise was a Spoonbill seen near the road and in flight which turned out to be a Black-faced Spoonbill, a species I didn't think we would see.

After this great end to the birding day, it was time for dinner and back to our hotel for the night.

Tuesday 18th November. Weather bright, clear & cool.

Today we were taking the bullet train south to Xinyang Dong but that wasn't until 1pm so we had the morning to go birding. Jiahua picked up some food so that we could have breakfast on the move, and we headed to a large reedbed not too far from our hotel. On the way we flushed a Ring-necked Pheasant from the side of the road and had a Black-winged Kite hovering over some waste land.

Once at the reedbed we hadn't walked very far when we heard Reed Parrotbills calling close to the track and a little playback soon brought them into view. The reedbed was very busy with birds, a couple of Hen Harriers patrolled the edges, a Eurasian Sparrowhawk dashed through, a Bittern did a couple of circuits before dropping into the reeds, two Chinese Penduline Tits showed well and then we got into the Buntings.

Common Reed Buntings aren't very common here but we had two showing well, Pallas's Reed are common and at least fifteen showed up during our walk, Ochre Rumped are the

rarest of the reed buntings and it took a bit of effort to dig two out. Backing these up were a couple each of Little and Black-faced Buntings.



Reed Parrotbill

Moving on to another area of marsh and dried up rice paddies the first bird up was a nice Rustic Bunting which showed very well beside the track but otherwise it was fairly quiet. A possible Ochre-rumped Bunting disappeared into the reed bed, a couple of Hen Harriers showed, and two Ferruginous Ducks lifted out of the reed. Walking back a flock of White-cheeked Starlings showed up and a Goldcrest moved through a hedge beside the car.

We did a quick return to the first reedbed, but it was now very quiet, the only birds showing a flock Vinous-throated Parrotbills.

After this it was time to head to the train station for our five and a half our trip south. We said our goodbyes and thanks to Jiahua for his great work and after a bit of a false start, wrong place, found our way into the station. When we arrived at Xinyang Dong it was already dark, Mr Gao was waiting to take us for the half hour drive to our hotel for dinner and bed.

Wednesday 19th November. Weather bright & clear, cool in the morning but warming up nicely later.

We had breakfast and headed out in the dark into Dongzhai Nature Reserve driving the roads in the hope of seeing Reeves Pheasant. After a bit of driving without results we stopped on a part of the road with a good view on either side just as it was getting light. With the increasing light bird activity started, Chestnut and Mountain Bulbuls were noisy and visible in the trees, Yellow-bellied and Asian Tits appeared, our first Pallas's Warbler moved through, a Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler showed briefly and Grey-capped Pygmy, Great Spotted, Grey-headed Woodpeckers and a Speckled Piculet all appeared, but no Pheasants.

Another drive of the roads produced a couple of new birds, a Brown Shrike and two Brown-breasted Bulbuls. We headed to another part of the reserve where a nice open area with a pool looked promising. There were plenty of birds present, two Light-vented Bulbuls, several Red-flanked Bluetails and Bramblings, singles of Yellowish-bellied and Brownish-flanked Bush Warblers, a flock of Eurasian Siskins and David picked up four Yellow-throated Buntings.



Brown-breasted Bulbul

After some time at this spot, we moved on and drove to an area of rice paddies to look for some other species. Stops along the road produced Little Buntings and a White-breasted Kingfisher but not the hoped for Crested Ibis. After a bit of searching, we found a number of Collared Crows in one area close to our hotel before returning there for some lunch.

After our lunch break Mr Gao drove us to a bird hide overlooking some paddies and a pool and after a short wait a flock of Crested Ibis flew in to feed and sit in the surrounding trees preening and giving excellent views. Another White-breasted Kingfisher joined the Ibis in the trees and several Black Kites circled over the hills in the background.



Crested Ibis

Following this we drove to a large hide overlooking a pool in the hope that Reeves Pheasant might turn up. The Pheasants didn't appear, but a good selection of other birds showed up including a flock of at least fifty White-rumped Munias, at least ten Oriental Turtle Doves, several each of Red-flanked Bluetail, Daurian Redstart and Pallas's Warbler, Black-throated Tits and a flock of Chinese White-eyes. With the light fading we headed back to the hotel for dinner and bed.

Thursday 20th November. Weather clear & bright warming up after a cool early morning.

Another start in the dark to try for the Pheasants and driving the roads again without success. The bird list was similar to yesterday, Chestnut and Mountain Bulbuls, Bramblings, Black-throated Tits, Pallas's Warblers and Red-flanked Bluetail but we added Dusky Thrush, a Godlewski's Bunting, and a brief Goshawk.

As we were catching the 11am train to Jiujiang we had to pack up and move on although we did have a Large-billed Crow on the way to the train station.

Our train took just over two hours and our guide, Mr Wan, was waiting to meet us at Jiujiang station. We loaded our bags into the car and set off to a nearby lake. The lake was full of birds, the most obvious where the hundreds of Bewicks Swans spread over the lake, there were also small numbers of Tundra Bean and Eastern Greylag Geese as well as all the common dabbling ducks including several Garganey, Falcated, Ferruginous and Spot-billed Ducks. There were also small numbers of diving ducks, Pochard and Tufted Ducks and among them we found the main target for this lake, Baer's Pochard, three males that put o a good, if slightly distant, show.



Baer's Pochard

As the day was drawing to a close, we walked around the lake area seeing many gaggles of Bean and Greylag Geese in flight along with two flocks of Eurasian Spoonbills. Pallas's Warblers were quite common in the bushes bordering the lake and a Chinese Bamboo Partridge called a few times but refused to show. A Long-tailed Shrike, a species that we would see every day for the rest of the trip, sat up nicely, flocks of Starlings, mostly Red-billed but including a few White-cheeked, started to gather to go to roost, a flock of six Red-billed Blue Magpies showed well in the trees and our only Barn Swallows of the trip showed over the lake. So with the light gone we headed for dinner and then our hotel.

Friday 21st November. Weather clear, bright & warm.

After breakfast it was time to head towards Poyang Lake. Driving away from our hotel we spotted our first Chinese Blackbird feeding on a grass verge when we stopped at traffic lights. Before we reached the lake, we pulled over to watch huge skeins of geese circling and dropping onto nearby fields. Taking a track off the road we drove towards the geese, stopping by a house and walking among Lotus ponds and seeing good numbers of Water and Siberian Pipits and White Wagtails as well as a hunting Siberian Weasel.



Siberian Pipit

We carefully approached the fields with the geese, although they didn't seem too bothered by our presence. Spread over several fields were large numbers of Tundra Bean, Greater White-fronted and Eastern Greylag Geese and Bewicks Swans. Searching through the flocks we picked out a few Whooper Swans, Swan Geese and Taiga Bean Geese. We spent some time searching but couldn't find any Lesser White-fronts among the flocks.

A Common Greenshank dropped in for a short stop and several Plain Prinias showed along a ditch and then as we watched the geese a family party of four Siberian Cranes, two adults and two juveniles, circled over the fields and dropped down in front of us quickly followed by a pair of Common Cranes.



Siberian Cranes

Moving on we drove over a causeway across a marsh at the edge of Poyang Lake with large numbers of Tundra Bean and Greater White-fronted Geese present on both sides of the road. The geese were being disturbed by several Eastern Marsh Harriers that were patrolling the marsh. Unfortunately, we couldn't stop on this stretch of road as there were high kerbs on both sides and no pull off areas.

Further along we reached a nice park area with a viewing platform overlooking the lake. Scanning from here proved very productive, as well as all the geese that we had previously seen we picked up three White-naped Cranes, two Hooded Cranes, quite a few Eurasian Spoonbills and two Oriental Storks. Among the diving ducks David picked up one Greater Scaup. There were also waders present, Pied Avocets, Lapwings and Black-tailed Godwits. Several Eastern Marsh Harriers were seen floating over the reedbeds and among them was a single female Pied Harrier, a Pied Kingfisher was also seen here. On the walk back to the car we had a couple of Spotted Doves. After this productive stop we headed into a local town for lunch.

After lunch we visited two more viewing areas overlooking sections of the lake. We enjoyed views of thousands of geese and hundreds of Common and Siberian Cranes and Oriental Storks along with large numbers of the common dabbling and diving ducks. At one of the areas, we got lucky when a juvenile Amur Falcon appeared and circled overhead for a few minutes.

Our final stop of the day was back at the first area we had visited in the morning. We spent the last of the daylight going through the goose flocks hoping to find a Lesser White-front but without success, an Eastern Buzzard on the ground was the first of the trip.

Saturday 22nd November. Weather clear, bright & warm.

After breakfast we headed toward a different part of the lake, called White Crane Town according to Mr Wan. Along the way we again saw large numbers of geese, cranes, and ducks, often the sky seemed to be full of geese. Before we reached our destination, we stopped by what seemed to be a small lake alongside the road, it didn't appear to be part of Poyang Lake. We had a really enjoyable couple of hours here going through the waders, pipits and wagtails that were present. There was a very good selection of waders, Black-winged Stilt, Pied Avocet, Greenshank, Spotted Redshank, Marsh, Wood, Green and Common Sandpipers, Temminck's Stint, Little Ringed Plover, Lapwing and Common Snipe. For the pipits and wagtails, we found White and Eastern Yellow Wagtails, the Eastern Yellow of the subspecies taivana, Siberian, Water, Richards and Red-throated Pipits. A couple of Mongolian Gulls, two Kestrels and a nice male Black-faced Bunting rounded out a nice morning's birding.



Eastern Yellow Wagtail

Next we made our way to White Crane Town which was an area set up for tourists to see the cranes although during our visit all the birds were distant and views would have been poor without a telescope. There were large numbers of Siberian and Common Cranes present and

among them we were able to pick out a few White-naped Cranes. In the scrubby fields in front of the viewing area we picked up our only Bluethroat of the trip, our first Amur Stonechat and four Zitting Cisticolas. A Black-winged Kite showed distantly, and another Eastern Buzzard flushed the goose flocks present.

We moved on, the road followed the edge of the lake, we stopped anywhere that looked interesting. One field held a large flock of passerines, mostly Oriental Skylarks and Siberian Pipits, a set of ponds had a group of terns hawking over them, they were mostly Whiskered Terns, including one bird still in summer plumage, but there were two White-winged Black Terns with them.

Our final stop of the day was overlooking a corner of the lake which held huge numbers of dabbling ducks, mostly Teal but also including Garganey, Wigeon Falcated Duck, Pintail and Eastern Spot-billed Ducks. The ducks were occasionally disturbed by Eastern Marsh Harriers but also by people flying drones over them. Despite a long search we couldn't pick up anything new at this stop so headed off to Wuyuan for a two night stay.

Sunday 23rd November. Weather cool and slightly cloudy in the morning, clear and warm later.

We left early with a packed breakfast to get to the village that has the roost of Pied Falconets for first light. At the village we climbed up onto the roof of a school that overlooks the roost tree and ate breakfast while we waited for the birds to appear. We were joined by several photographers and a young Chinese birder. It was a cold wait, but we had a few distractions, a Yellow-browed Warbler appeared in a tree just below us, a Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler called from the undergrowth nearby and David picked up a Brown Dipper on the small river that ran through the village. The Chinese birder picked up a White-crowned Forktail on the river, followed by a Plumbeous Water Redstart and then, amazingly, a Slaty-backed Forktail appeared on the same stretch of water, quickly followed by a Blue Whistling Thrush.

After over an hour of waiting a head appeared at the hole in the roosting tree and then one of the Pied Falconets flew out, flew around a few times, and headed off towards a distant hill. A few minutes later the second bird emerged, flew up onto a tree beside where we were standing, stayed for a short time and then headed off to join its mate sitting on top of a distant tree, the birds being mobbed by a Grey Treepie.

Following this success, we walked down to the river to see what we could find. There was an old stone bridge which seemed to be a tourist attraction and on one side we had a brief look at the White-crowned Forktail again before it disappeared under the bridge. Moving to the other side of the bridge there was a small waterfall and steppingstones across the river. From here we picked up a pair of Plumbeous Water Redstarts and a Common Kingfisher before the White-crowned Forktail reappeared only to be quickly followed by a Little Forktail and finally the Slaty-backed Forktail. All three Forktails were in view at the same time in a small area of the river and all appeared to be very tolerant of people.

We explored along the river but couldn't refind the Brown Dipper and didn't come up with anything else new.



Pied Falconet



White-crowned Forktail



Little Forktail



Slaty-backed Forktail

It was time to head on to our next stop a short drive away. Another river, much larger than the last. As we drove along the bank, we found a flock of Mandarin Ducks and a few Black-crowned Night Herons in the river.

After a bit we parked up and were met by a local who led us along a steep path to a point on the riverbank where there was a long hide set up. Once inside we immediately saw that there were two female Scaly-sided Mergansers feeding in the river close by. We settled in to watch

these birds and soon after several males appeared, all giving excellent views, in total we counted sixteen birds. As we watched we realised that one of the redheads was not a Scaly-sided Merganser but rather a redhead Goosander. We pointed this out to a photographer present, but I don't think he got the relevance!

There were a few other birds seen along with the Mergansers, two Crested Kingfishers flew up and down the river a couple of times, three Black-crowned Night Herons sat on rocks in the middle of the river and a Long-billed Plover fed just outside the hide.

We headed back to get some lunch and then returned to the path to the hide to look for Short-tailed Parrotbill. We had no luck with the Parrotbill but did find a nice mixed flock which included a good number of Huets Fulvettas, two Rufous-faced Warblers, a Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker and two Streak-breasted Scimitar Babblers. Two Grey-backed Thrushes showed briefly in a tree and as we headed back to the car we had our first Olive-backed Pipits and our only Eurasian Wren of the trip. So ended another successful day.

Monday 24th November. Weather pleasant in the morning getting hot in the afternoon.

We had a few hours this morning before we took the 12.50 train to Sanming. We headed to another area to look for Short-tailed Parrotbill, without success. But the first birds that we found was a nice flock of Grey-headed Parrotbills right beside the road. A little further along the road a fruiting tree had a large flock of both Indo-Chinese and Black-chinned Yuhinas along with a few Huets Fulvettas. David also picked up a brief White-spectacled Warbler in the same tree.

We walked the road for some distance picking up three Grey-backed Thrushes, a large flock of Collared Finchbills and Scaly-breasted Munias, a Great Spotted Woodpecker, a few Lesser Necklaced Laughing Thrushes and plenty of Eurasian Jays and Grey Treepies. Both Yellow-browed and Pallas's Warblers were present in good numbers.

As we returned towards the car, we took a side track through some thick bamboo and found a flock of Vinous-throated Parrotbills along with few Rufous-capped Babblers. In a clearing we got lucky when a Crested Goshawk sat up on a pylon and gave excellent views. Back at the car the Grey-headed Parrotbills were still present along with a lot more Lesser Necklaced Laughing Thrushes.

After this it was time to head to the train station for our two-hour journey to Taining were Mr Luo was waiting for us.

Into Mr Luo's car and a short drive to some rice paddies which was some kind of research area, divided up into small plots with some of the rice not harvested and people studying the rice and making notes. At the time we arrived it was the middle of the afternoon, and the temperature was up to 25° so bird activity was limited. We could see that there were plenty of Amur Stonechats and a few Long-tailed Shrikes present and we did dig out a few other species including both Olive-backed and Richard's Pipits, a Little Bunting and two Black-faced Buntings, four Zitting Cisticolas, our only Grey Wagtail of the trip and two Black-collared Starlings.

After this we headed to our hotel for dinner and bed.



Crested Goshawk

Tuesday 25th November. Weather warm & clear all day.

An early start in the dark for our first drive up Emeifeng Mountain. Our first bird of the morning was a surprise, a Spotted Forktail on the road, our fourth Forktail species of the trip. Further along we flushed a White-crowned Forktail off the road, the first of four that we would see over the course of the day. After driving the main road up and down the mountain a couple of times the only pheasant sighting had been a Ring-necked Pheasant.

We had our packed breakfast at the side of the road. With the sun warming things up we walked up the road a short distance when we got into a nice flock of birds. First to appear were a pair of Yellow-cheeked Tits, they seemed to be common on the mountain, followed by a pair of Sultan Tits which showed well. More birds appeared, Chestnut and Mountain Bulbuls moved through the trees above the road accompanied by several White-browed Shrike Babblers and two White-bellied Erpornis. Pallas's Warblers were present along with a single Rufous-faced Warbler.

As the flock moved off, we went back to driving the road in the hope of finding Cabot's Tragopan or Elliot's Pheasant but without success. We took a break for lunch before returning to the mountain again in the afternoon.

Our afternoon driving and walking the road produced a nice mixed flock of Indo-Chinese and Black-chinned Yuhinas, a large flock of Siskins and singles of Great Barbet and Red-billed Blue Magpie. Finally we got lucky with a pheasant, turning a corner we found a male Silver Pheasant feeding at the side of the road, the bird didn't seem too bothered by us and eventually wandered off into the forest.



Silver Pheasant

Following this success Mr Luo drove us to near the top of the mountain and we walked a trail down to meet him again further down. Near the start of the trail a rustling in the leaf litter eventually revealed a group of Silver Pheasants which disappeared into the undergrowth. Lower down a further rustling turned out to be a large Boar, we didn't hang around to find out if it was on its own!

With darkness dropping in we headed down the mountain, but Mr Luo had a thermal imager, so we made a couple of stops when he picked things up. At the first stop a mammal was hiding in thick cover in a tree, we couldn't be sure, but it seemed to be a Giant Flying Squirrel, as we were watching it a Brown Wood Owl called from some distance away. Lower down another stop for something in the trees and this time we had excellent views of a Chinese Giant Flying Squirrel. This was our final stop of the day and so back to the hotel for dinner.

Wednesday 26th November. Weather warm & clear, cool in the evening.

Another start in darkness and back up the mountain. This morning along the road we had three species of Forktail, Spotted, White-crowned and Little. We also had a very brief male Elliot's Pheasant that flushed off the road and didn't hang around. Several runs up and down the road produced no pheasant sightings and, knowing that we had to leave the area at lunchtime, we resigned ourselves to missing our target birds.

Our packed breakfast gave us a boost and another nice flock along the road helped. We had a similar mix of species as yesterday dominated by Yellow-cheeked Tits. Along with the Chestnut and Mountain Bulbuls we got our first Black Bulbuls, the smart white-headed variety. We also had a smart Speckled Piculet moving with the White-browed Shrike Babblers and White-bellied Erpornis.

Mr Luo wasn't giving up on finding our target birds and so it was back to driving up and down and on our first descent from the top a sudden stop and Mr Luo pointing to two superb male Cabot's Tragopans on the bank at the side of the road. We bailed out of the car and had fantastic views as these two birds slowly walked away from us.

Buoyed by this we continued our search and further down we flushed another male Elliot's Pheasant from the road but again the bird didn't hang around to give satisfactory views. Continuing on we had a nice perched up White's Thrush and then a female Elliot's Pheasant showed well near the road and finally we found a male Elliot's Pheasant that gave brilliant views.

Well satisfied with our time at Emeifeng we headed off for lunch and the two-hour drive to our next stop near Sanming.

We spent the afternoon near our homestay accommodation driving and walking along a river looking for Blyth's Kingfisher but without success although we did pick up a few Olive-backed Pipits and a Red-flanked Bluetail. We also had a couple more Silver Pheasants feeding along the track by the river.

We continued to our accommodation, dropped our bags, had dinner, and then headed out for a little night birding. Accompanied by a young guy from the homestay we drove a short distance to an area on a lake shore. Here we were outfitted with camping seats and life jackets and taken to a motorised raft which, once we were settled onboard, sailed off into the darkness. We sat at the front with the young guy from the homestead who was equipped with a thermal imager and a spotlight, Mr Luo was at the back with another spotlight alongside the man driving the raft.

Within a couple of minutes of setting off something showed up on the thermal imager and the spotlight revealed an immature Black-crowned Night Heron, slightly further on another Black-crowned Night Heron appeared. Shortly after this another red dot on the imager and this time the spotlight revealed an adult White-eared Night Heron. The bird was on the shore but flew up into a tree and sat in full view. We watched the bird for about ten minutes and then left it in peace to return to shore, a brilliant end to a brilliant day.

Thursday 27th November. Weather warm & clear.

Another early start and we headed back to the river to try again for the Blyth's Kingfisher. We both drove along and walked along stretches of the river but no success with the Kingfisher. We did dig out a few other birds, including a few new birds for the trip.

At a dried-out rice paddy a nice selection of birds included at least six Olive-backed Pipits, and both Little and Black-faced Bunting.



Olive-backed Pipit

Along the course of the river, we had Fork-tailed Sunbird, two Orange-bellied Leafbirds and, after a bit of searching, a Tristram's Bunting. We followed the course of the river for some distance and at a clearing near a village Mr Luo heard a Chinese Barbet calling. After a bit of searching, we found the Barbet sitting on top of a tree showing well if a little distantly. We could now hear two birds calling although we didn't manage to locate the second bird. We watched the Barbet for a while and had a look around the area but apart from a smart male Daurian Redstart and a distant Black Kite we didn't see anything else and so we moved on.



Chinese Barbet

We now drove towards another area where we would visit a bird hide. Along the way David spotted a couple of Asian House Martins from the car and an Eastern Buzzard was seen soaring over the hills.

At the area for the bird hide we followed a track along the edge of rice paddies which held a few birds. White Wagtails were common and there were a few Plain Prinias along the bunds between the paddies. A shrike on overhead wires turned out to be a Bull-headed Shrike, our only sighting of the trip.

Once at the hide we settled in to wait and see what would turn up. It was quiet at the start but then a couple of Silver Pheasants appeared, over the next hour or so at least sixteen Silver Pheasants turned up, a mixture of adult and first year males and females. After a while we heard Chinese Bamboo Partridge calling somewhere nearby and slowly three birds came into view. They fed among the Silver Pheasants, occasionally scattering when the Pheasants started squabbling over food. They stayed around for some time, eventually moving to a small pond by the hide for a drink.

With the light failing it was time to walk back to the car and head to our hotel for our last night in China.



Chinese Bamboo Partridge

Friday 28th November. Weather cool early morning, warm & clear the rest of the day.

Our final day and after breakfast we headed to an area in the hills outside Sanming. Our first stop produced a new bird for the trip, a flock of Red-whiskered Bulbuls showed well by the road. Walking the road, we managed to find a few familiar birds, Yellow-cheeked and Asian Tits, Chestnut, Brown-breasted and Mountain Bulbuls, White-browed Shrike Babbler, White-bellied Erpornis and Pallas's and Yellow-browed Warblers. This was supposed to be a good area for woodpeckers, and we managed to find Grey-headed and Great Spotted but no others.

Dropping down the hill we stopped at an observation tower and from here we had a Speckled Piculet, a pair of Orange-bellied Leafbirds, a Grey Treepie and another Eastern Buzzard. Lower down a stop by a river produced a large flock of Vinous-throated Parrotbills and an even larger flock of Black-throated Tits along with a few Huets Fulvettas and a Common Kingfisher.

After this we headed back to Sanming for lunch and then a walk around a local park which didn't produce much other than a roost of Black-crowned Night Herons, a few White Wagtails, a mixed flock of Black-throated Tits and Huets Fulvettas and a couple of Mountain Bulbuls.

With our time running out we headed for a final stop back at the experimental rice paddies where we had first stopped on the 24th. We spent another very enjoyable hour or so here

wandering around and getting nice views of the birds. Amur Stonechats and Olive-backed pipits were both very common. A couple of Richard's Pipits flitted about giving occasional views, watched over by two Long-tailed Shrikes sitting on the overhead wires. A large flock of Scaly-breasted Munias was present and we dug out both Little and Black-faced Buntings. A few Common Snipe were present and then David found a White-breasted Waterhen and two Painted Snipe.



Painted Snipe

We flushed another White-breasted Waterhen further along the path and four Black-collared Starlings and a couple of Crested Mynas sat up on the overhead wires. Our last new bird of the trip was a Greater Coucal that hopped up onto a fence post for a look around before diving into cover.

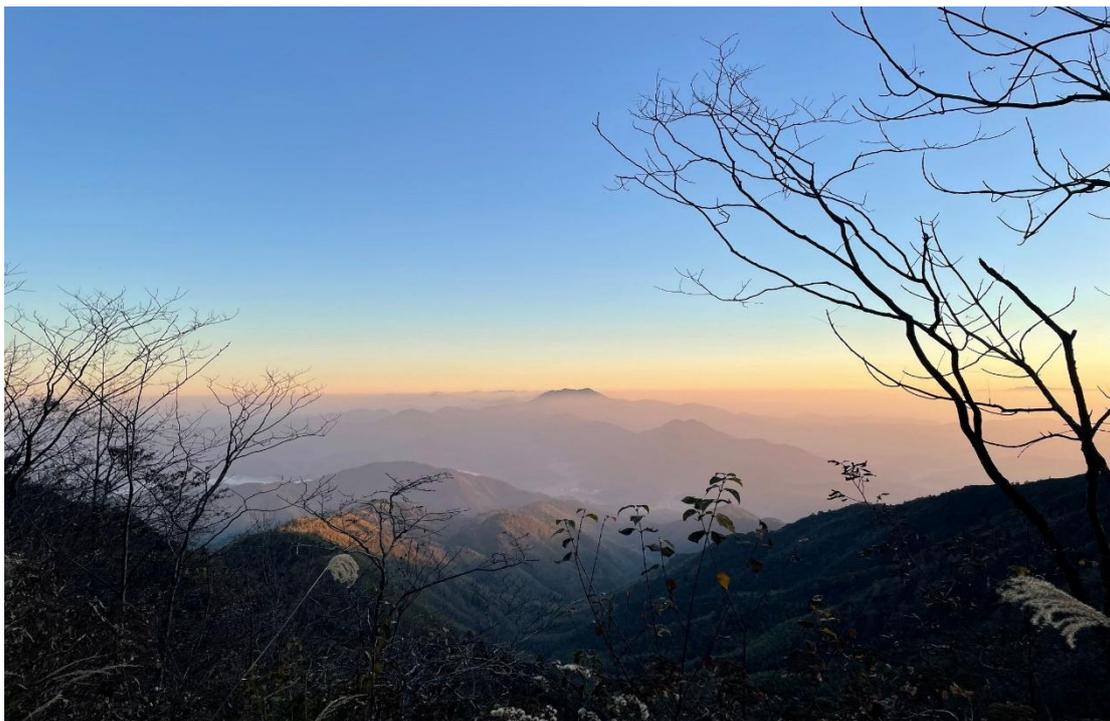
As we walked back to the car to head to the airport our last bird of the trip, rather fittingly, was a smart male Daurian Redstart, a species that we had seen at virtually every site we had visited.

Mr Luo dropped us off at Sanming airport for our early evening flight back to Beijing to connect with our late evening flight back to Dublin. It had been a fantastic trip, full of good birds and blessed with fantastic weather. A big thanks again to Steven at China Birding Tours and to our guides who worked to make it such a success.

If you want any further information on this trip, you can contact me at Garry.armstrong4ATbtinternet.com.



Daurian Redstart



Bird List:

Graylag Goose, *Anser anser* - Fairly common around Poyang Lake.

Swan Goose, *Anser cygnoides* - Small numbers around Poyang.

Greater White-fronted Goose, *Anser albifrons* - 10,000+ around Poyang.

Taiga Bean-Goose, *Anser fabalis* - A few among the Tundras at Poyang.

Tundra Bean-Goose, *Anser serrirostris* - 30,000+ around Poyang.



Tundra Swan, *Cygnus columbianus* - 5,000+ around Poyang.

Whooper Swan, *Cygnus cygnus* - A couple of small groups at Poyang.

Ruddy Shelduck, *Tadorna ferruginea* - 3 in the large marsh at Tianjin.

Common Shelduck, *Tadorna tadorna* - Several hundred around the coast at Tianjin.

Mandarin Duck, *Aix galericulata* - 20+ on the Scaly-sided Merganser river.

Garganey, *Spatula querquedula* - Small numbers around Poyang.

Northern Shoveler, *Spatula clypeata* - Small numbers around Poyang.

Gadwall, *Mareca strepera* - Fairly common around Poyang.

Falcated Duck, *Mareca falcata* - Small numbers around Poyang.

Eurasian Wigeon, *Mareca penelope* - Common around Poyang.

Eastern Spot-billed Duck, *Anas zonorhyncha* - Common at Tianjin and Poyang.

Mallard, *Anas platyrhynchos* - Seen on all water bodies.

Northern Pintail, *Anas acuta* - Small numbers at Tianjin and Poyang.

Green-winged Teal, *Anas crecca* - A few at Tianjin, 5,000+ at Poyang.

Common Pochard, *Aythya ferina* - Common at Tianjin and Poyang.

Ferruginous Duck, *Aythya nyroca* - Small numbers at Tianjin and Poyang.

Baer's Pochard, *Aythya baeri* - 3 males at a small lake near Wuhan.

Tufted Duck, *Aythya fuligula* - Small numbers at Poyang.

Greater Scaup, *Aythya marila* - A single bird at Poyang.

Stejneger's Scoter, *Melanitta stejnegeri* - A single bird with Goldeneye at Tianjin.

Common Goldeneye, *Bucephala clangula* - A small flock at the coast at Tianjin.

Smew, *Mergellus albellus* - 10+ redheads at the large marsh at Tianjin.

Common Merganser, *Mergus merganser* - 12 at the large marsh in Tianjin, a redhead with the Scaly-sided Mergansers.

Scaly-sided Merganser, *Mergus squamatus* - At least 16 birds on a river near Wuhan.

Cabot's Tragopan, *Tragopan caboti* - 2 males on Emeifeng.

Elliot's Pheasant, *Syrnaticus ellioti* - 5 birds on Emeifeng.

Ring-necked Pheasant, *Phasianus colchicus* - Common, seen most days.

Silver Pheasant, *Lophura nycthemera* - Fairly common at Emeifeng and at the bird hide at Sanming.

Chinese Bamboo-Partridge, *Bambusicola thoracicus* - 3 birds at the bird hide at Sanming.

Rock Pigeon, *Columba livia* - Seen at several sites in the north.

Hill Pigeon, *Columba rupestris* - A single bird on Lingshan Mountain.

Oriental Turtle-Dove, *Streptopelia orientalis* - Common, seen most days.

Eurasian Collared-Dove, *Streptopelia decaocto* - A few at the park in Beijing.

Spotted Dove, *Spilopelia chinensis* - Common in the south, seen on six days.

Greater Coucal, *Centropus sinensis* - A single bird at the rice paddies at Sanming.

Brown-cheeked Rail, *Rallus indicus* - A quick view of a bird in the park at Beijing.

Eurasian Moorhen, *Gallinula chloropus* - Common, seen at most water bodies.

Eurasian Coot, *Fulica atra* - Common, seen at most water bodies.

White-breasted Waterhen, *Amaurornis phoenicurus* - 2 birds at the rice paddies at Sanming.

Siberian Crane, *Leucogeranus leucogeranus* - Several thousand around Poyang.

White-naped Crane, *Antigone vipio* - Thirty over two days around Poyang.

Common Crane, *Grus grus* - 3,000+ around Poyang

Hooded Crane, *Grus monacha* - 2 from a viewpoint at Poyang.

Black-winged Stilt, *Himantopus himantopus* - Single bird at the lake near White Crane town.

Pied Avocet, *Recurvirostra avosetta* - Flocks at Tianjin and Poyang.

Black-bellied Plover, *Pluvialis squatarola* - 300+ at the coast at Tianjin.

Little Ringed Plover, *Thinornis dubius* - 2 birds at the lake near White Crane town.

Long-billed Plover, *Thinornis placidus* - A single bird outside the Scaly-sided Merganser hide.



Northern Lapwing, *Vanellus vanellus* - Small numbers around Poyang.

Greater Painted-Snipe, *Rostratula benghalensis* - Two at the rice paddies at Sanming.

Eurasian Curlew, *Numenius arquata* - 100+ at the coast at Tianjin.

Black-tailed Godwit, *Limosa limosa* - Several flocks around Poyang.

Common Snipe, *Gallinago gallinago* - A few at Poyang, 1 at the rice paddies at Sanming.

Common Sandpiper, *Actitis hypoleucos* - Single bird at the lake near White Crane town.

Green Sandpiper, *Tringa ochropus* - Seen at a few water bodies on 4 days.

Spotted Redshank, *Tringa erythropus* - 30+ at the lake near White Crane town.

Common Greenshank, *Tringa nebularia* - Good numbers around Poyang.

Wood Sandpiper, *Tringa glareola* - 2 birds at the lake near White Crane town.

Marsh Sandpiper, *Tringa stagnatilis* - 6 birds at the lake near White Crane town.

Temminck's Stint, *Calidris temminckii* - 7 birds at the lake near White Crane town.

Dunlin, *Calidris alpina* - Several hundred at the coast, a few at Poyang.

Relict Gull, *Ichthyaetus relictus* - At least 300 t the coast at Tianjin.

Saunders's Gull, *Saundersilarus saundersi* - Up to 40 at the coast at Tianjin.

Black-headed Gull, *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* - Common at most water bodies.

Common Gull, *Larus canus* – Single bird seen at the coast.

Vega Gull, *Larus vegae* – at least 5 birds at the coast.

Mongolian Gull, *Larus mongolicus* – 2 birds at the lake near White Crane town.

White-winged Black Tern, *Chlidonias leucopterus* – 2 birds with Whiskered Terns at pools near Poyang.

Whiskered Tern, *Chlidonias hybrida* – 15 birds over pools near Poyang.

Little Grebe, *Tachybaptus ruficollis* – Common, seen most days.

Great Crested Grebe, *Podiceps cristatus* – Seen at most water bodies.

Eared Grebe, *Podiceps nigricollis* – A single bird in the marsh at Tianjin.

Oriental Stork, *Ciconia boyciana* – 100+ each day at Poyang.



Great Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax carbo* – Common and widespread.

Crested Ibis, *Nipponia nippon* - 11 birds seen near Dongzhai Nature Reserve.

Eurasian Spoonbill, *Platalea leucorodia* – Hundreds around Poyang.

Black-faced Spoonbill, *Platalea minor* - A single bird in the marsh at Tianjin.

Eurasian Bittern, *Botaurus stellaris* – Single birds at the park in Beijing and over the reedbed near Tianjin.

Black-crowned Night Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax* – Seen in small numbers on four days.

Little Egret, *Egretta garzetta* – Common, seen most days.

White-eared Night Heron, *Oroanassa magnifica* – One of the birds of the trip, an adult near Sanming.

Great Egret, *Ardea alba* – Common, seen most days.

Gray Heron, *Ardea cinerea* – Seen nearly every day.

Black-winged Kite, *Elanus caeruleus* – Birds seen on two days.

Crested Goshawk, *Lophospiza trivirgata* – A single bird on a pylon near Wuhan.



Eurasian Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter nisus* – Singles seen on 2 days.

Eurasian Goshawk, *Accipiter gentilis* – A single bird seen at Dongzhai Nature Reserve.

Eastern Marsh Harrier, *Circus spilonotus* – Common around Poyang.

Hen Harrier, *Circus cyaneus* – A few seen around Tianjin.

Pied Harrier, *Circus melanoleucos* – A female seen from a watchpoint at Poyang.

Black Kite, *Milvus migrans* – Seen on 3 days including 6 at Dongzhai Nature Reserve.

Eastern Buzzard, *Buteo japonicus* – Singles seen on 4 days.

Eurasian Hoopoe, *Upupa epops* – A single bird in the park at Tianjin.

Common Kingfisher, *Alcedo atthis* – Singles seen on two days.

White-throated Kingfisher, *Halcyon smyrnensis* – Seen near Dongzhai and at Poyang.

Crested Kingfisher, *Megaceryle lugubris* – Two on the Scaly-sided Merganser river.

Pied Kingfisher, *Ceryle rudis* - Seen at Poyang and the Scaly-sided Merganser river.

Great Barbet, *Psilopogon virens* – Single birds on two days at Emeifeng.

Chinese Barbet, *Psilopogon faber* – Two birds on a hill near the Blyth's Kingfisher river.

Speckled Piculet, *Picumnus innominatus* – Seen at Dongzhai, Emeifeng and Sanming.

Gray-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, *Yungipicus canicapillus* – Four in the park in Beijing, singles at other sites.

Great Spotted Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos major* – Fairly common, seen on 6 days.

Gray-headed Woodpecker, *Picus canus* – Singles in Beijing, Dongzhai and Sanming.

Pied Falconet, *Microhierax melanoleucos* – 2 birds seen at their roosting tree.

Eurasian Kestrel, *Falco tinnunculus* – Fairly common especially around Poyang.

Amur Falcon, *Falco amurensis* – A single immature circling over a viewing point at Poyang.

White-browed Shrike-Babbler, *Pteruthius aeralatus* – Pairs seen on both days on Emeifeng and at Sanming.

White-bellied Erpornis, *Erpornis zantholeuca* – Seen on Emeifeng and at Sanming.

Bull-headed Shrike, *Lanius bucephalus* – A single bird on wires as we walked to the bird hide at Sanming.

Brown Shrike, *Lanius cristatus* – Single juvenile at Dongzhai Nature Reserve.

Long-tailed Shrike, *Lanius schach* – Common, seen nearly every day.



Chinese Gray Shrike, *Lanius sphenocercus* – A single bird at the marsh in Tianjin.

Eurasian Jay, *Garrulus glandarius* – A few seen while looking for Short-tailed Parrotbill on 24th.

Azure-winged Magpie, *Cyanopica cyanus* – Common around Beijing and Tianjin, not seen in the south.

Red-billed Blue-Magpie, *Urocissa erythroryncha* – Six at the Baer's Pochard lake, singles elsewhere.

Gray Treepie, *Dendrocitta formosae* – Common while looking for the Short-tailed Parrotbills on 24th.

Oriental Magpie, *Pica serica* – Common, seen on nine days.

Daurian Jackdaw, *Coloeus dauuricus* – Only seen at Tianjin.

Rook, *Corvus frugilegus* – Only recorded at Tianjin.

Carrion Crow, *Corvus corone* – Common at Lingshan and Tianjin.

Large-billed Crow, *Corvus macrorhynchos* – A few at Lingshan and Dongzhai.

Collared Crow *Corvus torquatus* – Twelve at Dongzhai.

Coal Tit, *Periparus ater* – Only seen at Lingshan and the park in Beijing.

Yellow-bellied Tit, *Periparus venustulus* – Only seen at Dongzhai.

Asian Tit, *Parus cinereus* – Common, seen most days.

Yellow-cheeked Tit, *Machlolophus spilonotus* – Only seen around Emeifeng and Sanming.

Sultan Tit, *Melanochlora sultanea* – Pairs seen on both days at Emeifeng.

Chinese Penduline-Tit, *Remiz consobrinus* – Two birds at the reed bed at Tianjin on 18th.

Marsh Tit, *Peocile palustris* – Only seen at Lingshan and the park in Beijing.

Willow Tit, *Peocile montanus* - Only seen at Lingshan.

Oriental Skylark, *Alauda gulgula* – Large flock seen on dry paddies near Poyang Lake.

Plain Prinia, *Prinia inornata* – Seen in small numbers around Poyang and Sanming.

Zitting Cisticola, *Cisticola juncidis* – A few seen around Poyang.

Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica* – A flock at the Baer's Pochard lake were the only ones of the trip.

Asian House Martin, *Delichon dasypus* – Two birds seen while driving from Emeifeng to Sanming.

Chestnut Bulbul, *Hemixos castanonotus* – Common around Dongzhai and Emeifeng.

Mountain Bulbul, *Ixos mcclllandii* – A few around Dongzhai and Emeifeng.

Collared Finchbill, *Spizixos semitorques* – Common around Dongzhai and the Short-tailed Parrotbill site.

Brown-breasted Bulbul, *Pycnonotus xanthorrhous* – Only at Dongzhai and near Sanming.

Light-vented Bulbul, *Pycnonotus sinensis* – Common, seen most days.

Red-whiskered Bulbul, *Pycnonotus jocosus* – Only seen on the final day near Sanming.

Black Bulbul, *Hypsipetes leucocephalus* – A few birds at Emeifeng.

Yellow-browed Warbler, *Phylloscopus inornatus* – Fairly common everywhere south of Poyang.

Pallas's Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus proregulus* – Common in most areas.

White-spectacled Warbler, *Phylloscopus intermedius* – A single bird while searching for Short-tailed Parrotbills.

Rufous-faced Warbler, *Abroscopus albogularis* – Two birds in a flock at the Scaly-breasted Merganser site and a single bird at Emeifeng.

Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler, *Horornis fortipes* – Singles at Dongzhai, the Falconet village and Sanming.

Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler, *Horornis acanthizoides* – A single bird at Dongzhai.

Silver-throated Tit, *Aegithalos glaucogularis* – Common around Beijing and Tianjin.

Black-throated Tit, *Aegithalos concinnus* – Flocks at Dongzhai and Sanming.

Reed Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis heudei* - Ten birds at a reed bed at Tianjin.

Vinous-throated Parrotbill, *Suthora webbiana* – Fairly common, seen on six days.

Grey-headed Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis gularis* – A flock of up to thirty found on 24th.

Chinese White-eye, *Zosterops simplex* – A flock at a hide in Dongzhai on 19th.

Indochinese Yuhina, *Staphida torqueola* – Several flocks seen on 24th and 25th.

Black-chinned Yuhina, *Yuhina nigrimenta* – A mixed flock with Indochinese Yuhinas at Emeifeng on 25th.

Beijing Babbler, *Rhopophilus pekinensis* – Two birds at Lingshan.

Rufous-capped Babbler, *Cyanoderma ruficeps* – Part of a mixed flock seen on 24th.

Streak-breasted Scimitar-Babbler, *Pomatorhinus ruficollis* – A single at Dongzhai and two near the Scaly-sided Merganser site.

Huet's Fulvetta, *Alcippe hueti* - Fairly common in the south, seen on six days.



Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush, *Garrulax monileger* – Flock of twenty seen on 24th.

Goldcrest, *Regulus regulus* – Single bird seen near Tianjin.

Eurasian Nuthatch, *Sitta europaea* – Single bird at Lingshan.

Chinese Nuthatch, *Sitta villosa* – Two birds seen well in the park in Beijing on 17th.

Eurasian Wren, *Troglodytes troglodytes* – Single bird at the Scaly-sided Merganser site.

Brown Dipper, *Cinclus pallasii* – Single bird on the river at the Falconet site.

Black-collared Starling, *Gracupica nigricollis* – Seen at the rice paddies at Sanming on 24th and 28th.

Red-billed Starling, *Spodiopsar sericeus* – Large flocks around Poyang.

White-cheeked Starling, *Spodiopsar cineraceus* – Small numbers around Poyang.

Crested Myna, *Acridotheres cristatellus* – Fairly common, seen on six days.

White's Thrush, *Zoothera aurea* – Single bird at Emeifeng.

Chinese Blackbird, *Turdus mandarinus* – A few seen on 20th and 21st.

Gray-backed Thrush, *Turdus hortulorum* – Two near the Scaly-sided Merganser site and three on the 24th.

Dusky Thrush, *Turdus eunomus* – A single on the drive to Lingshan and four at Dongzhai.

Naumann's Thrush, *Turdus naumanni* – Six at around the reed bed site at Tianjin.

Red-throated Thrush, *Turdus rufficollis* – Only seen at Lingshan but common there.

Oriental Magpie-Robin, *Copsychus saularis* – Singles seen on three days.

Bluethroat, *Luscinia svecica* – A single at the White Crane town site on the 22nd.

Blue Whistling-Thrush, *Myophonus caeruleus* – A single bird at the Falconet site.

Little Forktail, *Enicurus scouleri* – Single birds on the river at the Falconet site and along the road at Emeifeng.

White-crowned Forktail, *Enicurus leschenaulti* – A single bird at the Falconet site and seen regularly on both days at Emeifeng.

Spotted Forktail, *Enicurus maculatus* – Seen along the road at Emeifeng on 25th and 26th.

Slaty-backed Forktail, *Enicurus schistaceus* – A pair at the Falconet site and single on 27th.

Red-flanked Bluetail, *Tarsiger cyanurus* – Fairly common, seen on five days.



Daurian Redstart, *Phoenicurus aureus* – Very common, seen most days.

Plumbeous Redstart, *Phoenicurus ochruros* – A pair at the Falconet site.

Amur Stonechat, *Saxicola stejnegeri* – Very common around the rice paddies at Sanming.

Japanese Waxwing, *Bombycilla japonica* – Four birds in the park in Beijing.

Fork-tailed Sunbird, *Aethopyga christinae* – Two birds along the river on the 27th.

Orange-bellied Leafbird, *Chloropsis hardwickii* – Two birds at Emeifeng on 26th and a single on 28th.

Scaly-breasted Munia, *Lonchura punctulata* – Common at the rice paddies at Sanming.

White-rumped Munia, *Lonchura striata* – A flock at the bird hide at Dongzhai on 19th.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow, *Passer montanus* – Common, seen most days.

Gray Wagtail, *Motacilla cinerea* – Single bird on 24th.

White Wagtail, *Motacilla alba* - Common around Poyang and Sanming.

Eastern Yellow Wagtail, *Motacilla tschutschensis* – Four at the lake near White Crane town on 22nd.

Richard's Pipit, *Anthus richardi* – A few seen on four days.

Olive-backed Pipit, *Anthus hodgsoni* – Very common around Poyang and Sanming.

Red-throated Pipit, *Anthus cervinus* – Two at Poyang and four near White Crane town on 22nd.



Water Pipit, *Anthus spinoletta* – Common around Poyang.

Siberian Pipit, *Anthus japonicus* – Very common around Poyang.

Brambling, *Fringilla montifringilla* – Large flock at Dongzhai, a few at other sites.

Hawfinch, *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* – Seen at the park in Beijing.

Pallas's Rosefinch, *Carpodacus roseus* – Only seen at Lingshan but common there.

Long-tailed Rosefinch, *Carpodacus sibiricus* – Two birds at Lingshan.

Oriental Greenfinch, *Chloris sinica* – A few at Dongzhai and the Baer's Pochard lake.

Eurasian Siskin, *Spinus spinus* - Large flocks at Dongzhai and Emeifeng.

Meadow Bunting, *Emberiza cioides* – Single bird at the top of Lingshan.

Godlewski's Bunting *Emberiza godlewskii* – Single bird at Lingshan.

Yellow-throated Bunting, *Emberiza elegans* – Four birds at Dongzhai.

Ochre-rumped Bunting, *Emberiza yessoensis* – Two birds at the reedbed at Tianjin.

Pallas's Bunting, *Emberiza pallasi* – At least twenty birds around the reed bed at Tianjin.

Reed Bunting, *Emberiza schoeniclus* – Two birds at the reed bed at Tianjin.

Little Bunting, *Emberiza pusilla* – Small numbers seen at four sites.

Rustic Bunting, *Emberiza rustica* – A single bird on farmland at Tianjin.

Black-faced Bunting, *Emberiza spodocephala* – Fairly common, seen on six days.

Tristram's Bunting, *Emberiza tristrami* – A single bird seen along the river on 27th.

Heard Only Species:

Brown Wood-Owl, *Strix leptogrammica* – Heard at Emeifeng on 25th.

Rufous Woodpecker, *Micropternus brachyurus* - Noisy bird at Emeifeng on 26th.

Eurasian Treecreeper, *Certhia familiaris* - Heard calling in the woods at Lingshan.

Grey-sided Scimitar-Babbler, *Erythrogonys swinhoei* - Calling and responding to playback along the river on 27th.

Mammals:

Eastern Striped Squirrel, *Tamiops maritimus* - Several sightings on Emeifeng

Red Giant Flying Squirrel, *Petaurista petaurista* – Seen at Emeifeng on the 25th.

Pere David's Rock Squirrel, *Sciurotamias davidianus* - Two sightings in the Lingshan area.

Eurasian Wild Pig, *Sus scrofa* – A large boar at Emeifeng on 25th.

Chinese Water Deer, *Hydroptes inermis* - Two from a viewing platform at Poyang Lake on 22nd.

Siberian Weasel, *Mustela sibirica* – Two seen near Poyang Lake on 22nd.

