

## BUCKBIRD JOURNEYS LTD

In cooperation with China Wild Tours, Fuzhou

### EAST and SOUTH CHINA

Endemics galore

Thursday 9 – Friday 31 May 2013

### XINJIANG EXTENSION

**The search for the world's most remote Ground Jay**

Friday 31 May – Monday 3 June 2013

Robin Atherton, Merilyn Browne, Ken Cole, Philip Rostron, Hilary Woodhead, Noel Woodhead, Hugh Buck (leader), Tong Menxiu (local guide)

Wow, some odyssey this and possibly the most ambitious bird tour of China ever attempted as we visited endemic rich sites in the east and south – several as far as we know never visited by any other organised Bird Tour. The season was chosen to concentrate on the breeding specials and the results were spectacular with a virtual clean sweep of up to 26 breeding endemics and a good range of other range restricted species. True not everyone got onto everything (although most got onto most) and the overall list of near 300 species was perhaps low for a 3 week tour of this variety. But in order to get several of the real specials May is the optimum time to visit although most of the winter visitors and migrants had already left for northern breeding grounds.

The complex logistics were handled with patience and efficiency by Tong Menxiu of China Wild Tours, his knowledge of where to find the special birds was flawless and last minute alterations (especially the closure to foreign visitors of the World Heritage Site of Wuyishan) were handled with panache and cost us no major birds (indeed probably added a few). There were many highlights with standouts such as killer views of 7 species of Pheasant, the once thought extinct Chinese Crested Tern, 11 species of Laughingthrush amongst more than 30 species of Babbler, 5 Parrotbills and the severely threatened Jankowski's Bunting perhaps the highlights. Human pressure and culinary habits put mammal sightings at a premium but that family troupe of the endangered White-headed Leaf Monkey at Chongzhou was greatly appreciated

Modern day China, with its bewilderment of people, high rises and highways, did intrude on us a bit (although it made travel a dream compared with not so long ago) but most of our time was spent in lush hill forest and green paddy land, our hotels were comfortable enough after several long days (although the beds were, shall we say, a little on the "firm" side!), the beer flowed and the food was copious and often memorable. Thank you all for joining me and making this adventure possible

Major thanks also to Menxiu without whom none of it would have been possible at all and who bore the rigours of leading a group of “foreign devils” around his native land with cheer and dignity throughout

### Sites visited

Beijing (B), Cxie Xie, Jilin (CX), Jian Feng Lin, Hainan (J), Nonggang (N), Maoershan (M), Mangdangshan (Ma), Fuzhou (F), Emeifeng (E), Longquishan (L), Wuyuan (W), Dongzhai and Ling Shan (D), Nanhui (N)

### Thursday 19 May

Various members of the group arrive in Beijing at varying times but most are assembled at our simple hotel near the Beijing Botanic Gardens by evening for our first Chinese dinner. A few early comers take a walk around the Botanic Gardens where White-browed Nuthatch and many Azure-winged Magpies are perhaps the pick amongst a few others

### Friday 20 May

Our first early (0330!) start takes us through Badaling (most accessible site for viewing the Great Wall which we will see several times today and on 22 May) to the Kangxi Grasslands and the environs of Wild Duck Lake. Sadly the passage Oriental Plovers seem to have departed and we have to make do with, amongst others, several *kiangsuensis* Common (Ring-necked) Pheasants, Eastern Marsh Harrier, surprises in Steppe and a transient Short-toed Eagle (a lifer for TM no less), the *pekinensis* form of Common Swift, a very pale *jessoensis* Grey-headed Woodpecker, Asian Short-toed Lark and a Chinese Penduline Tit

Back at the hotel some make the walk to the Botanic gardens to catch back the Nuthatch and Magpie then it is the scum of Beijing Central Station and the 1600 overnight sleeper north to Tongliao in Jilin. Our four berth compartments are reasonably comfortable if a bit cramped and most get at least some sleep on the 12 hour plus journey

### Saturday 21 May

Arrival at bustling Tongliao is on time at 0530 and, breakfasted, we are away for 3 hours through mostly modified Manchurian grasslands to Cxie Xie and a rare range of bush covered grassy hills untouched by modern man. Here is a rare breeding site for the severely threatened Jankowski's Bunting (over 50 birds were recorded in this small area the previous week) and, with the aid of the “tape”, it is virtually the first bird we see as a pair responds and the female perches for several minutes in a nearby bush.

Males are more elusive and it takes a bit of tramping before we all get good views in the scope and can compare this bird with Black-faced, Little and Meadow Buntings also present here. We also flush a couple of Daurian Partridges and, amongst many calling birds, a Japanese Quail or two to keep everyone contented

Lunch at Cxie Xie is followed by a walk along the grassy margins of a nearby lake. Again no Oriental Plovers but we can admire several Amur Falcons hunting from the wires, Grey-headed Lapwing, a trio of dark Daurian Jackdaws and another pair of Chinese Penduline Tits before time intrudes and we have to return to Tongliao for our 2040 evening sleeper back to Beijing

### Sunday 13 May

A long day begins with a 0730 arrival at Huairou North, an easy transect along the Beijing ring road network and arrival at the airport in time for our 1125 Hainan Airlines flight to Sanya on Hainan Island. Onward now in tropical heat and humidity to Tainchi Lake and our guest house at Jian Feng Lin Nature Reserve. This is set nicely at the edge of verdant hill forest but it is a severe climb up steps to our accommodation although we eventually coerce a bunch of somewhat addled workers to help us with our luggage. We also eventually get dinner!

### Monday 14 May

The forest at Jian Feng Lin is accessed by an impressive, if often steep, board walk and this we ascend pre dawn to a spot known by TM to be favoured by the endemic Hainan Peacock Pheasant. Indeed one calls close in the dawn gloom but eludes us in the thick undergrowth and we have to be content with our first Chinese Barbets (here the ssp *faber*), several groups of the noisy and near endemic Rufous-cheeked Laughingthrush, a single of the endemic *monachus* form of Black-throated Laughingthrush, Chestnut, Mountain and Puff-throated Bulbuls and Pale-blue Flycatcher amongst a goodish range of others. On our way back we hear the duetting calls of a pair of the endemic Hainan Partridge but only TM and one other get a sighting of this skulking special

A second walk up to the viewpoint of Sky Island gives us a vocal Hainan Leaf Warbler but otherwise the afternoon is a bit of a bust. Yellow-billed Nuthatch and our first Huet's Fulvettas are found, more Partridges are heard as is a Peacock Pheasant which TM, without the group, tapes out for a view. Predictably it will not respond again once we are all assembled

### Tuesday 15 May

Another early morning fails again with the Pheasant although one more person gets a view of the Partridge. Despite a lot of trying it will not cooperate for the rest of the group. By 0930 we are off back to Sanya Airport and Shenzhen Airways gets us to Nanning back on the mainland by mid afternoon. A bus to Chongzhou and a humid evening walk gives us views of a troupe (with orange coloured babies) of White-headed leaf Monkeys in their rocky limestone domain. One of a group of South East Asian Langurs confined to this habitat they are, as they all are, severely threatened, this one confined to this area in western Guangxi. Chinese Francolin call, a Pale-footed Bush-Warbler is induced out of cover and our only Crested Bunting of the trip flies past. We are late into Longzhou, dinner and our hotel

### Wednesday 15 May

An hour away from Longzhou is Nonggang Nature Reserve, a scenic area of limestone bluffs close to the Vietnam border. Our morning is spent in a humid hike up into these and, via a rocky path, amongst them. Our target is the newly described Nonggang Babbler, like its close relative the Sooty a lover of these limestone rocks, but, although we hear them a couple of times, they are skittish and only two of the party manage brief views. The Limestone Leaf Warbler is easy to hear and is seen with persistence and a couple of Spot-necked Babblers are also notable. After lunch in the village a shorter afternoon walk strikes gold with a responsive bird offering good views. Sadly three laggards are not there and it refuses to respond at all for them later. We are back in Longzhou by 1930 for an early dinner and bed

### Thursday 16 May

Only three diehards make the predawn return trip to Nonggang but (infuriatingly for your writer who now regrets his idleness the previous afternoon!) not a squeak from the Babbler can we elicit. PR finds a flock of the *xanthomelana* form of White-winged Magpie, rare on mainland China. Then it is back for breakfast and an extended 10 hour bus ride over good roads to Guilin and on into the hills of Maoershan Nature Reserve where our hotel is simple but the welcome warm. Sadly it is rather damp and misty and the scenic wonders of this part of China will largely go unseen

### Friday 17 May

Is big, with an all day ascent by road to the summit of Maoershan and various walks along and off the road. It remains rather damp and misty all day hampering a little our views of birds on the way up which include a pair of full tailed Silver Pheasants and our first flock of the endemic Buffy Laughingthrush. An extended walk along a good trail through bamboo is the highlight with flocks of Babblers including multiple Golden-breasted and a pair of the rarely encountered Gold-fronted Fulvetta, Red-tailed Laughingthrush and flocks of the lovely little Golden Parrotbill. At the misty summit, in the process of being trashed with the building of a Stalinistic looking new hotel and casino, there is no sign of the endemic Upland Pipit but consolation is there in the form of a vocal Blunt-winged Warbler. A few others grace our descent for another early dinner and bed

### Saturday 18 May

The weather remains the same for this morning but our dawn ascent is made memorable by an extraordinary display of Galliforms on the road itself. First up a trio of Chinese Bamboo Partridge, followed by an immaculate male Golden Pheasant, a female Koklass with chicks and two pairs of Silver Pheasants. This is outstanding by any standards but, with all that building going on above, one has to wonder how long it will last.

The rest of our morning is less high powered but we are able to get to grips with several Warblers which include Blyth's and Kloss' Leaf, Bianchi's, Chestnut-crowned, Rufous-faced and Sulphur-breasted . Black-throated and a little party of the endemic Yellow-bellied Tit also oblige. 1430 sees us away back to Guilin for dinner than it is a long wait for our delayed flight to Fuzhou and it is nearly 0300 before we reach our hotel and collapse into bed

### Sunday 19 May

Little rest for the wicked or otherwise and 0430 finds us off again trying to beat the tide at a rather murky Minjiang Estuary. A rather brisk muddy hike gets us there in time for a roosting flock of Greater Crested Terns amongst which are the ghostly white forms of a couple of Chinese Crested. Our time is relatively limited before the flock takes wing with the receding tide and the scope views are a bit hampered by the gloom but all the main features of this almost mythical bird are noted. A sampling of late shorebirds includes a few of the controversial White-faced Plover, a couple of summer garbed Spotted Redshanks and large numbers of Sanderling, again many in breeding plumage. Other notables include flying Yellow Bitterns, both Black-browed and Oriental Reed Warblers, song flying Oriental Skylarks and a flock of Yellow-billed Grosbeaks

A seafood lunch then our luxury bus takes us inland to Fuzhou Forest Park and our nice guesthouse in the busy river valley. A gentle afternoon walk gets "high-jacked" into a mini death march and amongst a few additions is the endemic Grey-sided Scimitar-Babbler, now a well recognised split from Rusty-cheeked. A slightly irritated group meet for dinner and a welcome early bed

### Monday 20 May

With the leader back in tow our early morning walk is more even paced! Masked Laughingthrush joins more Scimitar-Babblers, a sneaky Spotted Wren-Babbler is more obliging than a Pale-headed Woodpecker which only offers a quick fly by and, outstandingly, a vocal pair of White-necklaced Partridge offer a mixture of views to all. Endemic to South East China this bird is every bit as difficult to connect with as any of its relatives so to get everyone on to it is a major coup. We will hear it repeatedly in days to come but only one person will get another view

Lunch over it is another long, 8 hour, drive, mostly through mist and rain to Nanning and up into the hills of Emeifeng Nature Reserve where our guest house is wonderfully situated at the summit but, even by Chinese standards, the beds are on the hard side! Here we are joined by Lao Lin, familiar to three of us from a (successful) hunt for Scaly-sided Merganser the previous year, and he will be our Pheasant guide supreme over the course of the next couple of days

## Tuesday 21 May

Although damp and mist remain a bit irritating it is great for bringing Pheasants to the road side and several runs down to the village of Sin Qiao and back during the morning and afternoon bring outstanding results. The much wanted Cabot's Tragopan is repeatedly encountered, mostly females but eventually all get views of males, Koklass and Silver Pheasants are almost common as, on the lower reaches, is the handsome endemic Elliot's. Extraordinary this and during the course of the day several other things also adorn our lists – Crested Goshawk and our first (perched) Chinese Sparrowhawk, Asian Barred Owlet, the *sini* form of Chinese Barbet, our first Collared Finchbills and Indochinese Fulvettas and, for a lucky two, a couple of vocalising Hartert's Leaf Warblers

## Wednesday 22 May

Our “chicken” runs conclude with two in the early morning to finalise views for everyone. All yesterday's appear again and this time a male Tragopan gets onto a branch by the roadside and even offers a short, if rather misty, wing whirring display. We are away by 1100 for lunch in Tanning and on through hills to scenic Longqishan and our hotel in a little river valley where a few more include White-throated Needletail, Dollarbird and Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush but not the desired Blyth's Kingfisher at a known hotspot. Dinner in the village is good and the beds a bit softer!

## Thursday 23 May

No sign of the Kingfisher again in a long walk downriver this morning and we cut our losses with a 1130 departure, lunch, past Nanping and on to the hills of Mandangshan Nature Reserve and our hotel. We stop at a favoured patch of bamboo en route and have our first encounter with the neat little Short-tailed Parrotbill

## Friday 24 May

Again a tarred road leads to the summit of Mangdangshan and we spend our day mostly in sunshine on the ascent and walk down. We have more Parrotbill encounters including the larger arboreal Grey-capped, enjoy the first of a series of Chestnut-winged Cuckoos, add Russet Bush-Warbler at the summit and clear up several previous misses for various members of the party

## Saturday 25 May

A similar pattern, lunch at the hotel then to Nanping for a traditional dumpling dinner and the 2200 overnight train to Jingdezhen

### Monday 26 May

Arrival at Jingdezhen is at 0630 and it is on to Wuyuan and the village of “Moon Bay”. Here in the woods behind the village is a colony of the now well known Courtois’ (Blue-crowned) Laughingthrush and the presence of several photographers cannot detract from the spectacle of some 30+ of these handsome birds, some feeding young, going about their business

Uncharacteristically for Laughingthrushes they are confiding, arboreal and obvious, belying their rarity (only 5 colonies numbering not more than 300 birds are known and this species (now split from Yellow-throated Laughingthrush in Burma and India) was “lost” for some 80 years before being rediscovered in the same area where it was first described in the late 1910’s). They are not all that is here. Grey-capped, Grey-headed and Great Spotted Woodpeckers are obvious as is a flock of Swinhoe’s Minivets, there are Jays and Grey Treepies and also the pale *leucogenys* Ashy Drongo. Lunch in Xiaoqui is notable for views of a Pied Falconet from the restaurant roof and in the nearby paddies are Pale Martin, Vinous-throated Parrotbill, Red-billed Starling and Russet Sparrow. Our hotel in Wuyuan is comfortable to end another big day

### Monday 27 May

A pleasant day amongst picturesque Huizhou villages, rivers, paddies and wooded hills. Notable are a pair of fighting Mandarin Duck, a couple of out-in-the open Brown Crakes, White-browed Laughingthrush and an eventually tamed bull Water Buffalo! On to the now megalopolis of Nanchang where our hotel is good, as is dinner washed down with quite acceptable Great Wall Syrah

### Tuesday 28 May

It is a hot, sweaty haul with our luggage to Nanchang’s main station but made worthwhile with two transits on excellent high speed trains via Wuhan to Xin Yang Dong and our basic hotel at Dongzhai Nature Reserve. Here a late afternoon walk adds a few more, notably a Fairy Pitta flushed up from the roadside

### Wednesday 29 May

Our first dawn go for Reeve’s Pheasant draws a blank for most people but over the next 36 hours we all get a variety of views of several of these amazing creatures including full tailed males. Other notables today include Black Baza, a couple of daylight Oriental Scops-Owls (including one in a nest box) and male Daurian Redstart and Yellow-rumped Flycatchers

### Thursday 30 May

Our last full day is a good one as we ascend nearby Ling Shan. All catch up with Black Baza, Grey-faced Buzzard, Black and Black-eared Kites, Black-capped Kingfisher and Tiger Shrike, there are more Reeve's Pheasants and we add Brown-breasted Bulbul and the near endemic Collared Crow. We are back for lunch and a leisurely afternoon before moving on back to Xin Shang Dong and our last overnight sleeper to Shanghai

### Friday 31 May

Shanghai is huge, busy and murky but we are soon out in the vast reedbeds of Nanhui. A completely different scene this and our principle and last targets, the endemic Reed Parrotbill and a couple of flighting Marsh Grassbirds are soon enough in the bag. There are Purple Herons, Common Cuckoos, a Great Bittern booms close by and a Manchurian Bush-Warbler, in a favoured patch of trees, is a last bird in a truly extraordinary trip. We part company at midday at Shanghai Airport with three staying on to go far to the west – to Xinjiang

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## Systematic Lists

### Birds

(Note. I have tried to be accurate as far as possible with the subspecies we encountered. This however, especially with certain groups such as Babblers and Warblers, is a bit of a taxonomic time bomb and I apologise in advance for any errors. Please advise anything obvious back to me)

(Breeding) Endemic to China

NE Near endemic to China

(h) Heard only

1. Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)  
Several encounters. Ssp *pogei*
2. Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*)  
B 6 or so on Wild Duck Lake 10/5, CX 1 11/5. Nominate ssp
3. Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)  
Common. Nominate ssp
4. Intermediate Egret (*Mesophoyx intermedia*)  
W 26/5. Only one identified for sure. Nominate ssp
5. Eastern Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus coromandus*)  
Common in the east. A not yet fully accepted split from Western Cattle Egret (*B. ibis*)
6. Eastern Great White Egret (*Ardea modestus*)  
Common. Again a not fully recognised split from Western (*A. alba*)
7. Chinese Pond Heron (*Ardeola bacchus*)  
Common
8. Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)  
Occasional sightings. Nominate ssp, with *jouyi* on the coast
9. Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*)  
Only at N. A few birds 31/5. Probably ssp *manilensis*
10. Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)  
Occasional sightings. Nominate ssp
11. Yellow Bittern (*Ixobrychus sinensis*)  
F several at Minjiang 19/5, N several 31/5.
12. Cinnamon Bittern (*Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*)  
Singles in flight L and Ma 22 and 23/5
13. Black Bittern (*Dupetor flavicollis*)  
W a single 26/5
14. Eurasian Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*)  
N one booming 31/5 (h)
15. Chinese Francolin (*Francolinus pintadeanus*)  
One calling at Chozhou 14/5 (h)
16. Daurian Partridge (*Perdix daurica*)  
CX 2 flushed 11/5. Ssp *suschkini*
17. Bar-backed Partridge (*Arborophila brunneopactus*)  
N heard calling at dawn 15 and 16/5 (h)

18. White-necklaced Partridge (*Arborophila gingica*)  
F a pair seen by all at the Forest Park 28/5. Ma one seen by PR 25/5.  
Commonly heard F, E, M and Ma. Endemic to SE China
19. Hainan Partridge (*Arborophila ardens*)  
J heard 13 and 14/5. Only seen by TM, RA and PR. Endemic to Hainan Island
20. Chinese Bamboo Partridge (*Bambusicola thoracicus*)  
F 3 seen 18/5, E 4 seen 21/5. Also heard at Ma and D. The nominate ssp is  
endemic to China although introduced to Japan. *B. sonorivox* (Taiwan Bamboo  
Partridge) if split will be endemic to Taiwan
21. **Cabot's Tragopan (*Tragopan caboti*)**  
E up to 8 on 21/5, 3 including some display from a male 22/5. Nominate ssp.  
Endemic to southern China
22. Koklass Pheasant (*Pucrasia macrolopha*)  
M, including a hen with chicks 18/5, E up to 10 (males, females and chicks)  
21/5, 6 22/5. Ssp *darwinii*
23. Silver Pheasant (*Lophura nycthemera*)  
M 3 19/5, E 4 21/5 and 2 22/5. Ssp *fokiensis*
24. **Elliot's Pheasant (*Syrmaticus ellioti*)**  
E 2 males, 2 females 21/5, 2 males and a female 22/5. Endemic to south China
25. **Reeves's Pheasant (*Syrmaticus reevesii*)**  
D 6 (4 males, 2 females) 29/5, 2 males 30/5, Ling Shan 4 males, 1 female  
30/5. Another spectacular Chinese endemic
26. Common (Ring-necked) Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)  
Occasional encounters. Probably *kiangsuensis* around Beijing and *torquatus* in  
the SE
27. Golden Pheasant (*Chrysolophus pictus*)  
M a glorious male 18/5 was most unexpected. Endemic to central China
28. Hainan Peacock Pheasant (*Polyplectron katsumae*)  
J heard and one seen (TM) 13/5. A not fully accepted split from Grey (*P.*  
*bicalcaratum*) on the mainland. Slightly smaller and darker with purple (not  
green) ocelli
29. Japanese Quail (*Coturnix japonica*)  
CX several heard and flushed 10/5
30. Chinese Spot-billed Duck (*Anas zonorhyncha*)  
Regularly encountered, especially in the east
31. Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)  
B only 1 at the Botanic Gardens 9/5
32. Mandarin Duck (*Aix galericulata*)  
W a pair in flight 27/5, D a pair (PR) 30/5
33. Black Baza (*Aviceda leuphotes*)  
A few D and Ling Shan 29 and 30/5. Ssp *syama*
34. Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*)  
1 from the bus near Nanning 16/5
35. Black-eared Kite (*Milvus lineatus*)  
A few at D 29/5. Still not 100% considered split from nominate Black (*M.*  
*milvus*)
36. Black Kite (*Milvus milvus*)  
A single at Ling Shan 29/5 looked like this species but seems well out of range.  
Possibly a young *M. lineatus*

37. Grey-faced Buzzard (*Butastur indicus*)  
Several D and Ling Shan 29 and 30/5
38. Crested Goshawk (*Accipiter trivirgatus*)  
E a few sightings. Ssp *indicus*
39. Shikra (*Accipiter badius*)  
J a couple of passing birds 13 and 14/5. Ssp *poliopsis*
40. Chinese Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter soloenis*)  
E 1 21/5 (perched views in the scope), W 1 26/5 and several D and Ling Shan 29 and 30/5. Nominate ssp
41. Besra (*Accipiter virgatus*)  
M one flushed off the road near the summit 17/5, Ma a possible 25/5
42. Crested Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis cheela*)  
A few sightings, mostly from moving busses. Ssp *ricketti*
43. Short-toed Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*)  
B a single at Kangxi 10/5 was a surprise and a new bird for TM. Only a rare transient in this area
44. Indian Black Eagle (*Ictinaenus malayensis*)  
W a single 26/5. Nominate ssp
45. Steppe Eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*)  
B the probable identity of a couple of large Eagles at Kangxi 10/5
46. Eastern Marsh Harrier (*Circus spilonotus*)  
B a pair at Kangxi 10/5
47. Pied Falconet (*Microhierax melanoleucos*)  
W 1 of the well known pair at Xiaoqui 26/5
48. Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)  
Regularly encountered. Nominate in the E, *interstinctus* elsewhere
49. Amur Falcon (*Falco amurensis*)  
B 2 at Kangxi 10/5, CX common and conspicuous 11/5
50. Northern Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*)  
B a single near Kangxi 10/5. Nominate ssp
51. Slaty-breasted Rail (*Gallirallus striatus*)  
F a probable at Minjiang 17/5
52. Brown Crake (*Amaurornis akool*)  
W 1 26/5, 2 27/5. Ssp *coccineipes*
53. White-breasted Waterhen (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*)  
L several 22/5. Occasional sightings elsewhere. Nominate ssp
54. Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)  
Occasional sightings. Now split from New World forms. Nominate ssp
55. Oriental Pratincole (*Glareola maldivarum*)  
CX a few from the bus by some 11/5
56. Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*)  
Occasional sightings
57. Pintail Snipe (*Gallinago stenura*)  
B a couple near Kangxi 10/5
58. Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)  
B a single near Kangxi 10/5
59. Grey-headed Lapwing (*Vanellus cinereus*)  
CX 3 11/5, W 4 26/5
60. Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*)  
F a couple of summer plumaged birds at Minjiang 19/5

61. Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)  
CX 1 11/5, F 4 at Minjiang 19/5
62. Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularis*)  
B 2 at Wild Duck Lake 10/5. Heard at Minjiang 19/5
63. Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*)  
B 2 near Kangxi 10/5
64. Terek Sandpiper (*Xenus cinereus*)  
F 2 at Minjiang 19/5
65. Grey-tailed Tattler (*Heteroscelus brevipes*)  
F 1 at Minjiang 19/5
66. Sanderling (*Calidris alba*)  
F the dominant shorebird at Minjiang 19/5 with over 100 seen, many in summer garb. Ssp *rubida*
67. Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)  
F 1 at Minjiang 19/5
68. Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)  
F a few at Minjiang 19/5. Probably ssp *nihonensis*
69. White-faced Plover (*Charadrius (alexandrinus) dealbatus*)  
F 3 at Minjiang 19/5. A debated and still not universally accepted split from 68
70. Greater Sand Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*)  
F several at Minjiang 19/5. Nominate ssp
71. Black-tailed Gull (*Larus crassirostris*)  
F a couple discerned in the gloom at Minjiang 19/5
72. Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*)  
CX several 11/5
73. Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)  
CX a couple of the dark bellied *longipennis* 11/5. F a few at Minjiang 19/5
74. Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*)  
CX a couple 11/5
75. Great Crested Tern (*Sterna bergii*)  
F numbers hiding 76. at Minjiang 19/5. Ssp *cristatus*
76. Chinese Crested Tern (*Sterna bernsteini*)  
F 2 with the Great Crested at Minjiang 19/5. Recently feared extinct, a nesting colony off Taiwan was discovered in the early 2000's and it probably still breeds in small numbers off the SE coast of China. Probably winters in the Moluccas but is very rarely seen there. The Minjiang Estuary in early summer is now the only realistic place to see this species. NE
77. Oriental Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia orientalis*)  
Regularly encountered. Nominate ssp
78. Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*)  
Regularly encountered. Nominate ssp
79. Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)  
CX and B a few 10 and 11/5. Nominate ssp
80. Chestnut-winged Cuckoo (*Clamator coromandus*)  
F heard at the Forest Park 20/5, Ma 2 on 25/5 and common and noisy around D 28, 29 and 30/5
81. Large Hawk-Cuckoo (*Cuculus spaverioides*)  
A persistent voice from Hainan east and seen on several occasions. Nominate ssp

82. Himalayan Cuckoo (*Cuculus saturatus*)  
M heard 18/5 (h)
83. Indian Cuckoo (*Cuculus micropterus*)  
Again frequently heard. 1 eventually seen D 29/5
84. Common Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*)  
Heard at D and Ling Shan 29 and 30/5. Several seen over the reedbeds at N 31/5. Nominate ssp
85. Lesser Cuckoo (*Cuculus poliocephalus*)  
Heard at M, E and D (h)
86. Plaintive Cuckoo (*Cacomantis merulinus*)  
F heard at the Forest Park 20/5 (h)
87. Asian Emerald Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx maculatus*)  
M 1 seen by some 17/5
88. Asian Koel (*Eudynamis scolopacea*)  
Heard D and Ling Shan 28, 29 and 20/5. 1 seen at the latter 30/5
89. Green-billed Malkoha (*Phaenicophaeus tristis*)  
J 2 13/5
90. Greater Coucal (*Centropus sinensis*)  
Regularly heard and occasionally seen. Nominate ssp
91. Lesser Coucal (*Centropus bengalensis*)  
M 1 near the summit 17/5. Ssp *lignator*
92. Brown Hawk Owl (*Ninox scutula*)  
N heard 15/5 (h)
93. Oriental Scops Owl (*Otus sunia*)  
D daylight views of one dark phase and another (in a nest box) light phase bird 29/5. Calling in daylight. Ssp *stictonotus*
94. Collared Scops Owl (*Otus lettia*)  
E heard only. (h)
95. Collared Owlet (*Glaucidium brodiei*)  
Often heard both tape and real. Seen at L Forest Park 15/5 and (3 individuals) M 18/5. Nominate ssp
96. Asian Barred Owlet (*Glaucidium cuculoides*)  
L heard and seen at E 22/5. Ssp *whitelyi*
97. Grey Nightjar (*Caprimulgus indicus*)  
J heard and seen 12 and 13/5, one seen in daylight Ma 25/5
98. White-throated Needletail (*Hiurundapus caudacutus*)  
L a couple seen by some 23/5
99. Asian Palm Swift (*Cypsiurus balasiensis*)  
M, F and E 13, 14 and 21/5. Ssp *infumatus*
100. Pacific Swift (*Apus pacificus*)  
B 9 and 10/5, M 17 and 18/5. Nominate in the north, *kanoi* in the south
101. House Swift (*Apus nipalensis*)  
L, Ma and W. Nominate ssp
102. Common Swift (*Apus apus*)  
B and CX 10 and 11/5. Ssp *pekinensis*
103. Red-headed Trogon (*Harpactes erythrocephalus*)  
Individuals seen J 13 and 14/5, F Forest Park 20/5. Ssp *yamakanensis*
104. Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)  
Individuals seen B, F and W. Ssp *bengalensis*

105. Black-capped Kingfisher (*Halcyon pileata*)  
D and Ling Shan 17, 28 and 30/5
106. Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*)  
W 3 27/5. Ssp *insignis*
107. Eurasian Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*)  
Singles CX and B 11 and 12/5, F 2 at Minjinag 19/5. Probably ssp *saturata*
108. Blue-throated Bee-Eater (*Merops viridis*)  
Seen near F 20/5 and D28/5. Nominate ssp
109. Dollarbird (*Eurystomus orientalis*)  
L, Ma and W. Ssp *colonyx*
110. Great Barbet (*Megalaima virens*)  
Heard F, E, L and Ma. Several seen E 21/5. Nominate ssp
111. Chinese Barbet (*Megalaima faber*)  
Heard J, N, M and E. Ssp *faber* seen J 13/5 and *sini* at M 18/5. Part of a multiple split of Black-browed Barbet (*M. oorti*) it is largely endemic to China although it creeps into Northern Vietnam (Buckbird 2011)
112. Speckled Piculet (*Picumnus innominatus*)  
Singles at Ma 24 and 25/5 and at Ling Shan (MB) 30/5. Ssp *chinensis*
113. White-browed Piculet (*Picumnus ochracea*)  
N 1 (PR) 17/5
114. Rufous Woodpecker (*Celeus brachyurus*)  
F 1 at the Forest Park 19/5. Ssp *fokiensis*
115. Pale-headed Woodpecker (*Gecinulus grantia*)  
F Forest Park. I responded but shot past for poor views 20/5. Ssp *viridanus*
116. Bay Woodpecker (*Blythipicus pyrrhotis*)  
Mostly heard but one seen E 21/5. Ssp *sinensis*
117. Lesser Yellownape (*Picus chlorolophus*)  
J 1 14/5. Ssp *longipennis*
118. Grey-headed Woodpecker (*Picus canus*)  
Individuals seen B near Kangxi 10/5 (*jessoensis*), Ma 25/5, W 16/6 and Ling Shan 30/5 (*sobrinus*)
119. Grey-capped Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus canicapillus*)  
W 2 26/6, D 2 29 and 30/5. Ssp *nagamichii*
120. Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus major*)  
B 2 9/5 (*brevirostris*), W 2 26/5, Ling Shan 2 30/5 (*mandarinus*)
121. Fairy Pitta (*Pitta nympha*)  
Calling but not responsive D and Ling Shan 28 – 30/5. One flushed from the roadside D 28/5 gave something of a view to everyone
122. Asian Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella cheelensis*)  
B 4 at Kangxi 10/5. Some, including “Clements”, lump this with Lesser Short-toed (*C. rufescens*)
123. Oriental Skylark (*Alauda gulgula*)  
F a few song flighting at Minjiang 19/5
124. Pale Martin (*Riparia diluta*)  
W a few of this Sand Martin split near Xiaoqui 26/5. Ssp *fokhiensis*
125. Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)  
Common. Ssp *gutturalis*, possibly *saturata* in the north
126. Red-rumped Swallow (*Hirundo daurica*)  
Regularly encountered throughout. Ssp *japonica*

127. Asian House Martin (*Delichon dasypus*)  
B a single 10/5, numbers around the under construction hotel at M 17/5.  
Probably *dasypus* in the north, *nigrimentale* at M
128. White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*)  
Regularly encountered. All seemed to be the black backed *leucopsis* or Amur Wagtail
129. Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)  
W 1 26/5. Ssp *melanope*
130. Richard's Pipit (*Anthus richardi*)  
B 3 at Kangxi 10/5. Probably ssp *ussuriensis*
131. Olive-backed Pipit (*Anthus hodgsoni*)  
B, several at the Botanic Gardens 9/5, seen at J 11 and 12/5. Ssp undetermined
132. Buff-bellied Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*)  
B 2 at Kangxi 10/5. Ssp *japonicus*
133. Large Cuckooshrike (*Coracina macei*)  
Ma a single 25/5. Ssp *rexpineti*
134. Black-winged Cuckooshrike (*Coracina melaschistos*)  
Ma a single 24/5. Ssp *intermedia*
135. Black-crested Bulbul (*Pycnonotus melanicterus*)  
N a few 13 and 16/5. Ssp *flaviventris*
136. Red-whiskered Bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*)  
N, F and Ma. Nominate ssp
137. Brown-breasted Bulbul (*Pycnonotus xanthorrhous*)  
After much searching we finally found a pair at Ling Shan 30/5. Ssp *andersoni*
138. Light-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus sinensis*)  
Commonly encountered. Mostly nominate but the dark headed *hainanus* at J and N
139. Collared Finchbill (*Spizixos semitorquatus*)  
Common and conspicuous from Ma eastwards. Nominate ssp
140. Puff-throated Bulbul (*Alophoixus pallidus*)  
Common and noisy at J. Nominate ssp
141. Chestnut Bulbul (*Hemoxis castanonotus*)  
Common from J eastwards. Nominate at J, *canipennis* elsewhere. Almost a Chinese endemic just reaching into N. Vietnam. NE
142. Mountain Bulbul (*Iox mcclellandi*)  
Again common from J eastwards. A variable species, *similis* on Hainan, *holtii* elsewhere
143. Black Bulbul (*Hypsipetes leucocephalus*)  
Regularly encountered from F eastwards. Probably dark headed *perniger* F and E, white headed nominate elsewhere
144. Orange-bellied Leafbird (*Chloropsis hardwickii*)  
J 1 13/5 (*lazulina*), several Ma 24 and 25/5 (*melliana*)
145. **Swinhoe's Minivet (*Pericrocotus cantonensis*)**  
W around a dozen at "Moon Bay" 26/5, several at D and Ling Shan 28 – 30/5.  
A Chinese breeding endemic, wintering to SE Asia
146. Grey-chinned Minivet (*Pericrocotus solaris*)  
Regularly encountered. Ssp *griseogularis*
147. Scarlet Minivet (*Pericrocotus flammeus*)  
A few identified here and there. Ssp *fraterculus* on Hainan, *fokhiensis* elsewhere

148. White-throated Fantail (*Rhipidura albicollis*)  
J a couple 13/5. Nominate ssp
149. Black-naped Monarch (*Hypothymis azurea*)  
N 1 15/5. Nominate ssp
150. Asian Paradise Flycatcher (*Terpsiphone paradisi*)  
D 29 and 30/5. Probably migrant *incei* breeding in NE China
151. Brown Dipper (*Cinclus pallasii*)  
Only 1, from the bus, near Taining 20/5. Not sure how many got onto it.  
Nominate ssp
152. Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush (*Monticola rufiventris*)  
E a pair 21/5, Ma a single 24/5
153. Blue Whistling Thrush (*Myophonus caeruleus*)  
Ma and Ling Shan. Nominate ssp
154. Chinese Blackbird (*Turdus mandarinus*)  
Regularly encountered. Not yet fully split from Eurasian (*T. merula*) but it  
looks markedly bigger and is vocally distinct
155. Oriental Magpie Robin (*Copsychus saularis*)  
Regularly encountered. Ssp *prosthopellus*
156. Daurian Redstart (*Phoenicurus aureus*)  
D a pair 28, 29 and 30/5. Nominate ssp
157. Plumbeous Redstart (*Rhyacornis fuliginosa*)  
Regularly encountered in suitable habitat. Nominate ssp
158. White-capped Redstart (*Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*)  
Singles noted at M 18/5 and E 20/5
159. Slaty-backed Forktail (*Enicurus schistaceus*)  
Regularly encountered
160. White-crowned Forktail (*Enicurus leschenaulti*)  
Ditto. Ssp *sinensis*
161. Spotted Forktail (*Enicurus maculatus*)  
E a pair 20 and 22/5. Ssp *bacatus*
162. Brown-chested Jungle Flycatcher (*Rhinomyias brunneata*)  
Heard at M18/5 and D 29/5 but strangely unresponsive. The indefatigable PR  
eventually tracked one down at the last minute at D 30/5. A Chinese breeding  
endemic wintering to SE Asia where it is rarely encountered
163. Yellow-rumped Flycatcher (*Ficedula zanthopygia*)  
D a nice pair or two 27 – 30/5
164. Taiga Flycatcher (*Ficedula albicilla*)  
B 3 at the Botanic Gardens 9/5, CX 4 10/5. Now a solid split from Red-  
breasted (*F. parva*)
165. Snowy-browed Flycatcher (*Ficedula hyperythra*)  
M 1 17/5. Nominate ssp
166. Asian Verditer Flycatcher (*Eumyias thalissinus*)  
Ma 21 and 22/5. Nominate ssp
167. Small Niltava (*Niltava macgrigoriae*)  
M 2 17/5 and a single 18/5. Ssp *signata*
168. Hainan Blue Flycatcher (*Cyornis hainanus*)  
None on Hainan, N several 15 and 16/5. A Chinese endemic breeder wintering  
in SE Asia
169. Pale Blue Flycatcher (*Cyornis unicolor*)  
J common by voice and at least 1 seen 13/5. Ssp *dialuoensis*



170. Common Tailorbird (*Orthotomus sutorius*)  
N a couple at Chozhou 15/5. Heard elsewhere
171. Mountain Tailorbird (*Phyllergates cucullatus*)  
M a vocal single 18/5. Recent DNA studies indicate this is not a Tailorbird at all
172. Zitting Cisticola (*Cisticola jundicis*)  
1 near Taining 22/5. Ssp *tinnabulans*
173. Yellow-bellied Prinia (*Prinia flaviventris*)  
Heard frequently in suitable habitat. Seen at N and F. Ssp *sonitans*
174. Plain Prinia (*Prinia inornata*)  
Singles N 15/5 and F 19/5. Ssp *extensicauda*
175. Pale-footed Bush Warbler (*Cettia pallipides*)  
N one coaxed into view at Chongzhou 14/5. Probably *laurentei*
176. Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler (*Cettia fortipes*)  
17/5 seen at M summit and D 28 and 29/5. Heard elsewhere. Ssp  *davidianus*
177. Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler (*Cettia acanthizoides*)  
M a couple induced 17/5 into showing themselves along the bamboo trail.  
Nominate ssp
178. Grey-sided Bush Warbler (*Cettia brunnifrons*)  
A single at M 18/5 seems way out of range
179. Manchurian Bush Warbler (*Cettia canturians*)  
N a single coaxed out 31/5. Nominate ssp
180. Russet Bush Warbler (*Bradypterus seebohmi*)  
Common by voice at the summit of Ma. One seen beautifully 24/5. Ssp *melanorhynchus*
181. Arctic Warbler (*Phylloscopus borealis*)  
F a couple 19/5
182. Two-barred Warbler (*Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus*)  
An on off split from Greenish (*P. trochiloides*). Seems to be on again at the moment. Singles seen at Beijing Botanic Gardens 9/5 and near Kangxi 10/5
183. Sulphur-breasted Warbler (*Phylloscopus ricketti*)  
Several M 17/5 and 18/5 and also seen at E 21/5
184. Limestone Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus calciatilis*)  
This recent split from 183 is confined to rocky outcrops in W China, Laos and Vietnam. Common by voice and couple seen at N 15/5
185. Blyth's Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus reguloides*)  
M, based on vocalisations this was the dominant Warbler 17/5 and 18/5. The literature is confusing on the ranges of this complex in China
186. Hainan Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus hainanus*)  
J a pair in good voice seen well from the Sky Island platform 13/5. Endemic to Hainan Island
187. **Hartert's Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus goodsoni*)**  
E heard 21/5 and two seen by TM and 2 others that afternoon. The scarcity of this newly split endemic form was a mystery and its range is confusing. See comments under 185. Anyway a nasty miss for most!
188. Kloss' Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus ogilviegranti*)  
This recent split from White-tailed (*P. davisoni*) was common at M 17 and 18/5
189. Yellow-bellied Warbler (*Abroscopus superciliaris*)  
Singles at N 15 and 16/5

190. Rufous-faced Warbler (*Abroscopus albogularis*)  
Common M, L and Ma. Ssp *fulvifacies*
191. Bianchi's Warbler (*Seicercus valentini*)  
Several at M 17/5 and 18/5. One of several recent splits of the Golden-Spectacled Warbler (*S. burkii*) which no longer exists as such
192. Chestnut-crowned Warbler (*Seicercus castaniceps*)  
Common at M and E. Ssp *sinensis*
193. White-spectacled Warbler (*Seicercus affinis*)  
Common at Ma. This ssp *intermedius* has golden spectacles and is a good bet for a future split
194. Oriental Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus orientalis*)  
F common at Minjiang 19/5 and at N 31/5
195. Black-browed Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*)  
F several at Minjiang 19/5
196. Blunt-winged Warbler (*Acrocephalus concinens*)  
M one coerced out at the summit 17/5. Nominate ssp
197. Thick-billed Warbler (*Acrocephalus aedon*)  
1 Ling Shan 1 30/1. Probably a migrant *stegmanni*
198. Marsh Grassbird (*Megalurus pryeri*)  
N 2 in song flight 31/5. Ssp *sinensis*
199. Masked Laughingthrush (*Garrulax perspicillatus*)  
Seen at F, D and Ling Shan
200. Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush (*Garrulax monileger*)  
Ma a single identified by some 25/5. Ssp *melli*
201. Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush (*Garrulax pectoralis*)  
A few encounters E, L and Ma. Ssp *picticollis*
202. Spotted Laughingthrush (*Garrulax ocellatus*)  
M a couple from the bamboo trail 17/5. Ssp undetermined
203. Rufous-cheeked Laughingthrush (*Garrulax castanotis*)  
J several noisy flocks 13/5. A split from Grey (*G. maesi*) and confined in China to Hainan. Otherwise only known from a few spots in Tonkin in N. Vietnam. NE
204. Black-throated Laughingthrush (*Garrulax chinensis*)  
J noisy but sneaky 13/5 with I bird offering views for some. The ssp *monachus*, endemic to Hainan
205. Red-tailed Laughingthrush (*Garrulax milnei*)  
M 4 from the bamboo trail 17/5, 1 18/5. Ssp *sinianus*
206. **Courtois' (Blue-crowned) Laughingthrush** (*Garrulax courtoisi*)  
This unusually bold *Garrulax* provided one of the highlights of the tour in its leafy home at "Moon Bay". Both the story and the bird are fascinating, the ease with which it was found and observed belying its status as one of the rarest birds on earth. Recently split from the disjunct Yellow-throated (*G. galbanus*) of E India and W Burma
207. Buffy Laughingthrush (*Garrulax berthemyi*)  
Regularly encountered from M eastwards. Now a Chinese endemic split from Rusty Laughingthrush (*G. poecilorhynchus*) which is now endemic to Taiwan
208. White-browed Laughingthrush (*Garrulax sannio*)  
W and D, a bird of open scrub. Nominate ssp
209. Chinese Hwamei (*Garrulax canorus*)  
Common. Now split from *G. taewanus* of Taiwan

210. Grey-sided Scimitar Babbler (*Pomatorhinus swinhoei*)  
Regularly encountered from F eastwards. Now a Chinese endemic split from the Rusty-cheeked (*P. erythrognys*) complex
211. Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler (*Pomatorhinus ruficollis*)  
Common especially by voice. Ssp *nigrostellatus* on Hainan, *hunanensis* elsewhere
212. Pygmy Wren-Babbler (*Pnoepyga pusilla*)  
M heard 17/5.(h)
213. Streaked Wren-Babbler (*Napothera epilepidota*)  
N 1 15/5
214. Spotted Wren-Babbler (*Spelaeornis formosus*)  
F 1 10/5, E 1 21/5
215. Rufous-capped Babbler (*Stachyris ruficeps*)  
An incessant sound in the forests J eastwards and seen on several occasions.  
Ssp *davidi*
216. Pin-striped Tit-Babbler (*Stachyris gularis*)  
N only, 2 15/5
217. Spot-necked Babbler (*Stachyris striolata*)  
N 3 15/5. Ssp *tonkinensis*
218. Nonggang Babbler (*Stachyris nonggangensis*)  
N 3 15/5 with good views for most at least of one. A newly described (2006) species closely related to the Sooty Babbler (*S. herberti*) of Laos and Vietnam sharing with it a love of limestone mountains. Endemic to a small area of China although it will likely be found in adjacent Vietnam before too long
219. Red-billed Leiothrix (*Leiothrix lutea*)  
M common 17/5 and 18/5
220. Blue-winged Minla (*Minla cyanonoptera*)  
M common 17/5 and 18/5. Ssp *wingatei*
221. Red-tailed Minla (*Minla ignotincta*)  
Again common M 17/5 and 18/5. Ssp *jerdoni*
222. Blyth's Shrike Babbler (*Pteruthius aerolatus*)  
A few M 17/5 and 18/5 and a single E 22/5. Part of a recent split from White-browed (*P. flaviscapis*). Ssp *ricketti*
223. Golden-breasted Fulvetta (*Alcippe chrysotis*)  
This beautiful little endemic was common M 17/5 and 18/5
224. Gold-fronted Fulvetta (*Alcippe variegaticeps*)  
M 2 along the bamboo trail 17/5. This neat little Chinese endemic is confined to a few remote mountains in SC China and is rarely encountered
225. Grey-hooded Fulvetta (*Alcippe cinereiceps*)  
Again common M 17/5 and 18/5. Now part of a messy split from the former Streak-throated it becomes, technically, a Chinese endemic. Ssp *guttacollis*
226. Dusky Fulvetta (*Alcippe brunnea*)  
Heard close at L 24/5 but no cigar. (h)
227. **Huet's Fulvetta (*Alcippe hueti*)**  
Common from Hainan eastwards. Another messy and now accepted split, this time from Grey-cheeked (*A. morrisonia*), this again becomes a Chinese endemic. According to IOC etc it was this form we were seeing – David's (another split) only being found north and west of our route
228. Indochinese Yuhina (*Yuhina torqueola*)  
Common from Ma eastwards. A split from Striated (*Y. castaniceps*)

229. Black-chinned Yuhina (*Yuhina nigrimenta*)  
Several small flocks M, E and L. Ssp *pallida*
230. White-bellied Erpornis (*Erpornis zatholeuca*)  
The ssp *griseiloris* was regularly encountered. Recent studies show this is not a Yuhina as such but more closely allied to Vireos
231. Grey-headed Parrotbill (*Paradoxornis gularis*)  
This arboreal Parrotbill was common in the forests at E and Ma. Ssp *fokiensis*
232. Reed Parrotbill (*Paradoxornis heudei*)  
N good views of a couple. With the probable splitting off of the closely related Northern (*P. polinanovi*) this becomes another, range restricted and potentially endangered, Chinese endemic
233. Vinous-throated Parrotbill (*Paradoxornis webbianus*)  
Common from W eastwards. Ssp *suffuses*
234. Golden Parrotbill (*Paradoxornis verreauxi*)  
This little bamboo lover was common at Ma 17/5 and 18/5 and several active flocks were encountered. Ssp *pallidus*
235. Short-tailed Parrotbill (*Paradoxornis davidianus*)  
Ma several encounters of small numbers 23/5 – 25/5. Nominate ssp
236. Northern Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)  
M heard 17/5. (h)
237. Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*)  
B a single at the Botanic Gardens 9/5 (PR). Probably *glaucogularis*, recently (August 2013) elevated to specific rank as Silver-throated Tit
238. Black-throated Tit (*Aegithalos concinnus*)  
Abundant M eastwards often in large flocks. Nominate ssp
239. Yellow-bellied Tit (*Parus venustus*)  
This SE China endemic was seen at M 18/5 and W 26/5
240. Yellow-cheeked Tit (*Parus sibilans*)  
Common from M eastwards. Ssp *rex*
241. Japanese (Eastern) Great Tit (*Parus minor*)  
These putative splits from Great Tit (*P. major*) are a real dog's dinner but this was the one we commonly encountered E eastwards. At last split by Cornell in August Nominate ssp
242. Green-backed Tit (*Parus monticolus*)  
Another displaced Himalayan species common at M 17/5 and 18/5. Ssp *yunnanensis*
243. Sultan Tit (*Melanochlora sultanea*)  
A single of ssp *flavocristata* at J 13/5
244. Yellow-browed Tit (*Sylviparus modestus*)  
M several of these Warbler look alike were seen at 17/5 and 18/5
245. Chinese (White-browed) Nuthatch (*Sitta villosa*)  
B singles at the Botanic Gardens 9/5 and 19/5. Nominate ssp. NE
246. Yellow-billed Nuthatch (*Sitta solangiae*)  
J 4 in a flock 13/5. This ssp *chienthengensis* is restricted in China to Hainan
247. Chinese Penduline Tit (*Remiz consobrinus*)  
B 1 near Kangxi 10/5, CX a pair 11/5. NE
248. Olive-backed Sunbird (*Nectarinia jugularis*)  
N a couple 15/5, F a single 20/5. Ssp *rhizophorae*
249. Mrs Gould's Sunbird (*Aethopyga gouldiae*)  
M 17/5 and 18/5. Ssp *dabryae*

250. Fork-tailed Sunbird (*Aethopyga christinae*)  
N, F and J. Several sightings. Ssp *latouchii*
251. Plain Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum concolor*)  
N several 15/5. Ssp *olivaceum*
252. Fire-breasted Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum ignipectus*)  
Ma single males 23/5, 24/5 and 25/5. Nominate ssp
253. Japanese White-eye (*Zosterops japonicus*)  
Common at D 28/5 – 30/5. Ssp *simplex*
254. Black-naped Oriole (*Oriolus chinensis*)  
Noted near B and at W. Ssp *diffusus*
255. Silver Oriole (*Oriolus mellianus*)  
Oh dear a bit painful to write about. As we emerged from the bamboo trail on M 17/5 we heard harsh notes which may have been the alarm call of this species. A black and white bird slipped over the ridge a few moments later but only TM and HB (ironically of course the only two to have seen this strangely shy species before) glimpsed it. Should not really be on this list but a Chinese endemic breeder moving as far south as (rarely) Thailand in winter
256. Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus*)  
Occasional sightings , usually from the bus. Ssp *cathoecus*
257. Ashy Drongo (*Dicrurus leucocephalus*)  
Common W, D and Ling Shan. The white faced *leucogenys*
258. Crow-billed Drongo (*Dicrurus annectans*)  
N a single 15/5 but only seen by a few
259. Bronzed Drongo (*Dicrurus aeneus*)  
M 1 17/5. Nominate ssp
260. Hair-crested Drongo (*Dicrurus hottentottus*)  
D and Ling Shan, several 28/5 – 30/5. Ssp *brevirostris*
261. Greater Racket-tailed Drongo (*Dicrurus paradiseus*)  
J, a couple of the ssp *johni* 14/5
262. Tiger Shrike (*Lanius tigrinus*)  
D a single near our hotel 28/5 (MB) and 3 30/5
263. Brown Shrike (*Lanius cristatus*)  
Occasional sightings. Ssp *lucionensis*
264. Long-tailed Shrike (*Lanius schach*)  
Occasional sightings. Nominate ssp
265. Chinese Grey Shrike (*Lanius sphenocercus*)  
CX a single found by TM 11/5 sadly could not be relocated in the wind for the rest of us
266. Daurian Jackdaw (*Corvus dauricus*)  
QC 3 mottled dark birds (immatures?) 11/5
267. Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*)  
QC at least 10 11/5. The eastern ssp *orientalis* (Oriental Crow) suggested as a split by some from western forms
268. Large-billed Crow (*Corvus macrorhynchus*)  
Another taxonomic dustbin with several splits proposed. Ours, at opposite ends of China, were nominate *C. macrorhynchus* with *mandschuricus* in the NE and *colonarum* in the SW
269. Collared Crow (*Corvus pectoralis*)  
Ling Shan / D after much searching several 30/5. NE

270. Eurasian Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*)  
Commonly encountered from Ma eastwards. Ssp *sinensis*, one of the pink headed forms
271. Red-billed Blue Magpie (*Urocissa erythrorhyncha*)  
Although it occurs well beyond its borders somehow this bird spells China for many folks. Indeed it was a dominant species from E eastwards. Nominate ssp
272. White-winged Magpie (*Urocissa whiteheadi*)  
J a single of the nominate ssp 13/5, N up to 6 of ssp *xanthomelana*. PR only
273. Azure-winged Magpie (*Cyanopica cyanus*)  
Now generally considered split from the Iberian form (*C. cooki*) this bird was common around B and D. Ssp *interposita* in the north, probably *swinhoei* elsewhere
274. Grey Treepie (*Dendrocitta formosae*)  
Common and noisy F eastwards. Ssp *sinica*
275. Ratchet-tailed Treepie (*Temnurus temnurus*)  
J 1 from the Sky Island platform 13/5 (HB). Confined in China to Hainan. Ssp *nigra*
276. Black-billed Magpie (*Pica pica*)  
Abundant in the east. Again eastern forms including this ssp *sericea* (Oriental Magpie) show DNA differences from western forms and may be split in the future. But what a can of worms will that open up?!
277. Red-billed Starling (*Sturnus sericeus*)  
Common W and D. A Chinese breeding endemic some moving south into Indo China (and even Philippines) in winter
278. White-cheeked Starling (*Sturnus cineraceus*)  
B several around Kangxi 10/5, a couple at CX 11/5
279. Black-collared Starling (*Sturnus nigricollis*)  
Several sightings W eastwards
280. Crested Myna (*Acridotheres cristatellus*)  
Common. Nominate ssp
281. Russet Sparrow (*Passer rutilans*)  
Common W eastwards. Nominate ssp
282. Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)  
Common throughout. Ssp *saturatus*
283. Oriental (Grey-capped) Greenfinch (*Carduelis sinica*)  
Regularly observed in the east. Probably *ussuriensis* both in the north and the south
284. Yellow-billed Grosbeak (*Euphona migratoria*)  
F a flock of about 15 at Minjiang 19/5. Probably ssp *sowerbyi*
285. White-rumped Munia (*Lonchura striata*)  
Regularly encountered. Ssp *swinhoei*
286. Scaly-breasted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*)  
Ditto. Ssp *topela*
287. Crested Bunting (*Melophus lathamii*)  
N a single in flight at Chongzhou 14/5 was the only record
288. Little Bunting (*Emberiza pusilla*)  
B 2 at the Botanic Gardens 9/5, CX up to 20 11/5
289. Meadow Bunting (*Emberiza cioides*)  
CX 10 or so 11/5. Ssp *weigoldi*

290. **Jankowski's Bunting (*Emberiza jankowskii*)**  
 CX up to 5, both male and female 11/5. The prime reason for our long trip north from Beijing and now a threatened Chinese endemic following extinction in Russia and Korea. Although easily seen in the area we visited its range is constantly shrinking as its bush dotted native grassland habitat is eaten up by agriculture and other demands
291. **Elegant (Yellow-throated) Bunting (*Emberiza elegans*)**  
 CX a single male for some 11/5. Nominate ssp
292. **Black-faced Bunting (*Emberiza spodocephala*)**  
 CX a few 11/5
293. **Pallas' Reed Bunting (*Emberiza pallasi*)**  
 CX a couple reported by TM 11/5. Not sure exactly where.

### Mammals

(after Duff and Lawson)

1. **Amur Hedgehog (*Erinaceus amaurensis*)**  
 D 1 by PR 29/5 would seem to be this species
2. **Rhesus Macaque (*Macaca mulatta*)**  
 M a small troupe in the bamboo was probably this species
3. **White-headed Leaf Monkey (*Tachipithecus poliocephalus*)**  
 N 14/5, a troupe of around a dozen (with orange coloured young) of these highly endangered primates on their rocky domain was a highlight for many. Endemic to Guangxi and one site in Vietnam
4. **Chinese Hare (*Lepus sinensis*)**  
 D 1 by PR 29/5. Another pearl cast before ----- !
5. **Pallas's Squirrel (*Collosciurus erythraeus*)**  
 Variable phases regularly encountered
6. **Maritime Striped Squirrel (*Tamiops maritimus*)**  
 The regularly encountered little "Chipmunk" Misleadingly named
7. **Pika sp (*Ochotona* sp)**  
 CX 1 (MB) from the bus 11/5 cannot be pinned down to species
8. **Eastern House Mouse (*Mus musculus*)**  
 1 31/5 from the Shanghai train!

