Beidaihe, Happy Island & Wulingshan, May 2007.

An at-a-glance list of 232 species of birds recorded.

By Jesper Hornskov *** ALL RIGHTS RESERVED *** [this draft 25 Dec 2007]

<u>Please note that the following list is best considered a work in progress. It should not be quoted without consulting the author.</u>

Based on my personal field notes from 'local birding', this brief write-up covers the birds noted by myself in the Beidaihe / Happy Island area & at Wulingshan over 5-24 May 2007 – a few records from Beidaihe over 15+16+23 June are included for want of what else to do with them, and in the hope of encouraging birdwatchers to consider at least a brief visit at a non-classic time of the year.

A wish to document that there are still plenty of birds to be seen in this area in spring prompted me to produce this list.

I am sometimes asked 'is Happy Island better in spring or in autumn?' but this is really quite unanswerable – even the question 'for the best birdwatching experience, should I go in spring or in autumn?' is tricky: who can predict the future? And one would have to, to answer that: any given two or three week period between early March and early June, and between mid-August and early November has excellent potential, depending on what exactly you are looking for, but inevitably some years are better than others: as with any undertaking involving highly variable factors such as weather going birdwatching anywhere one needs at least a little luck to make it all happen.

In autumn the island serves as an extension to the mainland, situated right on the NNE/SSW migration axis – thus on many mornings you get strong visible migration, comparable to what you see at e g Falsterbo, on average much stronger than what you get in spring. If the winds are right, you may even get quite impressive numbers of birds of prey, far more than in spring. At the same time you get the 'island effect' producing frequently impressive falls of passerines.

In spring you get e g buntings in their best plumage, and many birds are singing. On the other hand, in autumn one gets to see juvenile plumages (so much more relevant to your Western Palearctic rarity hunting) and for many this will completely compensate for the less concentrated nature of autumn migration. From the bird <u>watching</u> point of view an important difference – and that of course goes for nearby Beidaihe as well – is that the vegetation is much denser in autumn: consequently up until mid-October it can take quite a bit longer to actually see the birds.

While Happy Island has not remained immune to change since discovered by birders in 1990, developments can scarcely be said to have significantly diminished the island's attractiveness to birds. Situated right on the flyway, its patches of woodland, areas of scrub, 'grassy-reedy flats', shrimp ponds & extensive mudflats (with an easily accessible high tide roost for waders, gulls & even cranes) continue to attract large numbers of migrants. If anything, most birdwatchers will now find the island a more agreeable holiday destination: accommodation and toilet/shower facilities are much better nowadays, and the infrastructure (access roads & mainland-to-island boat service) is much improved.

I arranged the Wulingshan excursion for H Huhtinen, P O Laaksonen, R Maki & W Velmala and ended up 'coming along for the ride' - mostly we were not birdwatching together, but it was good fun anyhow, so THANKS! I also spent a fair bit of time in the very pleasant company of A Buhring, P Lafrenz & A F Sand – it was a pleasure and a privilige to watch that Spooner with you: thanks!

Please feel free to contact the author if you are intending to go birdwatching in China

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Species list:

Japanese Quail Coturnix japonica

One S of BDH on 6th & two on Happy Island on 15 May.

Koklass Pheasant Pucrasia macrolopha

Six calling males over 23-24 May. On 23rd, presumably on account of the dodgy weather, none were heard before 09h50 – typically calling starts at dawn.

Common Pheasant Phasanius colchicus

50 bird-days on the mainland (birds on Happy Island are introduced), and at Wulingshan 18 on 23rd & four on 24th.

Mandarin Duck Aix galericulata

One at Yang He Pools on 11th was a bonus bird.

Gadwall Anas strepera

Two at Lighthouse Pt on 9th.

Falcated Duck Anas falcate

A male flew E past Lighthouse Pt at 10h50 on 8th.

Mallard Anas platyrhynchos

A male migr at Lighthouse Pt on 9th, and on Happy Island three on 15th & one on 20th. Otherwise a scattering around Reservoir, with breeding proved.

Chinese Spotbill Anas zonorhyncha

A scattering along the coast and up to 70 daily on Happy Island. At Reservoir a female w/ ten small ducklings on 16 June furnished proof of breeding.

Garganey Anas querquedula

Two in the Reservoir area on 5th, ten on the sea off LG on 8th, two ->W, then ->E past Lighthouse Pt on 9th & three on Happy Island on 16 May.

Common Teal Anas crecca

A pair on the sea off LG on 8th was the only record.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

At Lighthouse Pt one flew E in the eveing of 8th & nine flew E the next day.

Little Grebe Tachybaptus ruficollis

80 bird-days. Noted mostly in the Reservoir area. Also up to seven sheltering E of Lighthouse Pt on 8th, with one calling bird remaining on the sea there the next morning, and singles on Happy Island on 18+19th.

Great Crested Grebe Podiceps cristatus

Two S of Beidaihe on 6th.

Yellow Bittern Ixobrychus sinensis

I did not get down to the Reservoir to look for them in May, but there were five there on 15th, six on 16th & 14 (of which two headed off on migration) on 23 June.

Schrenk's Bittern Ixobrychus eurhythmus

On 20th on flushed N of West Wood & one at Small Wood.

Black-crowned Night Heron Nycticorax nycticorax

c430 bird-days. Most were at Big Wood (180 on 6th, 150+ on 14th & 30+ on 20th); on Happy Island just three on 16th & singles on 18+19th.

At Reservoir a few into June – three on 15th, six on 16th & two on 23rd.

Striated Heron Butorides striata

One arriving in off the sea at Lighthouse Pt on 9th, and one over Big Wood on 20th.

Chinese Pond Heron Ardeola bacchus

106 bird-days. A good scattering incl 1-5 daily on Happy Island over 15-19th, and 14 in the Reservoir area on 23 June.

Eastern Cattle Egret Bubulcus coromandus

15 bird-days. Noted on four dates – main event five near Dapuhe on 6th & four at Big Wood on 20th.

Grey Heron Ardea cinerea

Eight bird-days. Noted on three dates, incl one bird on Happy Island on 18th.

Purple Heron Ardea purpurea

13 bird-days. Noted on eight dates, incl one in off the sea at Lighthouse Pt at 06h31 on 9th, two migr past Lotus Hills at 18h00 on 12th, two on Happy island on 16th & one there on 18th, and two in Reservoir area on 16 June.

Great Egret Ardea alba

17 bird-days. Noted on seven dates, incl one in the Reservoir area on 16th & two on 23 June. None were noted on Happy island.

Little Egret Egretta garzetta

c242 bird-days. A good scattering but just singles on Happy Island (on 17+19th) – main event 105 at Sandflats on 23 June.

Common Kestrel Falco tinnunculus

Surprisingly, one near the summit of Wulingshan on 23rd was the only record.

Amur Falcon Falco amurensis

40 bird-days. Noted on 12 dates. Of note was a pair seen copulating at Reservoir on 16 June.

Eurasian Hobby Falco subbuteo

40 bird-days. Noted on 15 dates, incl at Wulingshan (one on 24th).

Peregrine Falco peregrinus

One flying over near Saltworks on 7th.

Osprey Pandion haliaetus

One over Happy Island at 10h50 on 19th.

Oriental Honey Buzzard Pernis ptilorhynchus

15 bird-days. One in off the sea at Sandflats on 13th & at Happy island 11 on 16th, two ('took off N at 08h30) on 17th & one on 18th.

Eastern Marsh Harrier Circus spilonotus

20 bird-days. Noted on nine dates, mostly on Happy Island (where, unusually, a male was display-flighting daily).

Pied Harrier Circus melanoleucos

21 bird-days. Noted on seven dates. One flew W past Lighthouse Pt at 06h58 on 9th, otherwise none away from Happy Island where main event ten 2nd c-y birds on 16th.

Chinese Goshawk Accipiter soloensis

Two singles, migr at 11h55 & 12h21, respectively, at Happy Island on 16th.

Japanese Sparrowhawk Accipiter gularis

20 bird-days. Recorded on ten dates. Of note were three migr over Bunting Field ('all three had most likely roosted on Lighthouse Pt') on 14th, 1-5 almost daily on Happy Island & one at Wulingshan on 24th.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk Accipiter nisus

Four bird-days. Noted on four dates... one adult on Wulingshan on 23rd.

Grey-faced Buzzard Butastur indicus

Two bird-days. One over N Lotus Hills at 17h35 on 12th & one on Happy Island on 18th.

White-breasted Waterhen Amaurornis phoenicurus

One seen at Reservoir on 16 June ('thought I heard one there the day before').

Ruddy-breasted Crake Porzana fusca

In Reservoir area two heard on 21 May, and one heard on 16th & three calling briefly at 20h00 on 23 June.

Common Moorhen Gallinula chloropus

54 bird-days. Recorded in the Reservoir area on seven dates (incl five on 15th, four on 16th & seven on 23 June).

Eurasian Oystercatcher Haematopus ostralegus

Ten bird-days. Noted on six dates, incl on Happy Island with singles 14+15+19th & two on 16th.

Black-winged Stilt Himantopus himantopus

121 bird-days. Noted on 12 dates. Main events 25 in the Reservoir area on 5th, 21 sheltering on the beach at Lighthouse Pt on 8th & 32 at Dapuhe on 14th.

Pied Avocet Recurvirosta avosetta

16 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

Grey-headed Lapwing Vanellus cinereus

15 bird-days. Noted on three dates – most appreciated were seven which flew past the Happy Island restaurant on 16th...

Pacific Golden Plover Pluvialis fulva

c339 bird-days. Noted on eight dates. Main events c100 migr at Lighthouse Pt at 06h35 on 9th & 105 migr (five flocks of 10-35 birds) at Happy Island on 17th.

Grey Plover Vanellus squatarola

415+ bird-days. Noted on nine dates. Main event 150+ on Happy Island on 18th – regular visits to the shore would undoubtedly have yielded greater numbers...

Little Ringed Plover Charadrius dubius

12 bird-days. Noted on seven dates, incl at Sandflats on 16+23 June.

Kentish Plover Charadrius alexandrinus

54 bird-days. Noted on 12 dates, incl 2-10 daily on Happy Island, and one at Sandflats on 23 June.

Lesser Sand Plover Charadrius mongolus

23 bird-days. Noted on seven dates. Main event nine on Happy Island on 16th.

Greater Sand Plover Charadrius leschenaultii

One 'by bridge among rocks' at Little Whimbrel Fields on 6th & three at Sandflats on 13th.

Pintail Snipe Gallinago stenura

20 bird-days. Noted on eight dates. Main event six near Dapuhe on 6th – on Happy Island a couple of birds were seen display-flighting on several occasions.

Common Snipe Gallinago gallinago

Seven bird-days. Noted on five dates – only one on Happy Island, on 20th.

***Snipe sp Gallinago sp

Three in total, of which one at Small Wood on 20th was a Swinhoe's / Pintailed.

Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus*

172+ bird-days. Noted on four dates on Happy Island – main event 89 on 18th, of which 24 were seen to head off on migration.

Eastern Black-tailed Godwit Limosa melanuroides

17 bird-days. Two on 6+7th near Saltworks & 13 on Happy Island on 18th.

Bar-tailed Godwit Limosa lapponica

1,340+ bird-days. Noted on seven dates. On Happy Island main events c500 on 18th & 605 (incl a flock of 55 migr seen by AB) on 19th.

Little Whimbrel *Numenius minutus*

59 bird-days. Noted only when searched for specially on 6+7th. Seen in three different spots – main event 34 on 7th: superb views of birds on the ground and flying around giving their whistled display call.

Whimbrel Numenius phaeopus

c300 bird-days. Noted on 16 dates. Main event 101+ (incl a flock of 95 migr: AB) on 19th – evidently around then, given the right weather conditions, a major passage takes place: we saw flocks of 19 & eight head N over Big/Small Woods area the next day, presumably only a fraction of the numbers involved...

Eurasian Curlew Numenius arquata

c270 bird-days. Noted on eight dates in May, and with singles over Reservoir area (one heard at 20h10) on 16th & at Sandflats on 23 June.

***In addition, 330 Curlew sp on Happy Island on 15th.

Far Eastern Curlew Numenius madagascariensis

46 bird-days. Noted near Saltworks with 30 on 6th & two on 7th, and on Happy Island on 18th (a flock of 14 flew E across the island... regular visits to the roost would undoubtedly have revealed higher numbers!).

Spotted Redshank Tringa erythropus

Three bird-days. Noted near Saltworks on 7th & at Dapuhe on 14th.

Common Redshank Tringa totanus

42 bird-days. Noted on 11 dates.

Marsh Sandpiper Tringa stagnatilis

62 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

Common Greenshank Tringa nebularia

278 bird-days. Noted on 13 dates. Notable counts include 53 at Yang He on 11th & 66 there on 13th, 39 at Sandflats also on 13th, 30 at Dapuhe on 14th & 27 (of which 25 migr) at Happy Island on 15th.

Green Sandpiper Tringa ochropus

Nine bird-days. Noted on six dates.

Wood Sandpiper Tringa glareola

94 bird-days. Noted on nine dates.

Terek Sandpiper Xenus cinereus

76 bird-days. Noted on eight dates. Main event 38 (incl one with a yellow leg flag) near Saltworks on 6th.

Common Sandpiper Actitis hypoleucos

16 bird-days. Noted nine dates... there were 75 on Happy Island on 19th (AB et al.)

Grey-tailed Tattler Heteroscelus brevipes

One at Sandflats on 13th.

Ruddy Turnstone Arenaria interpres

11 on Happy Island on 15th.

Great Knot Calidris tenuirostris

Three on Happy Island on 15th & one there on 16th. Regular visits to the roost would undoubtedly have yielded higher numbers!

Red Knot Calidris canutus

c275 bird-days. On Happy Island 21 on 16th, 11 on 18th & 120 migr at 18h45 on 19th, and at Big Wood c125 flying NE on 20th.

Red-necked Stint Calidris ruficollis

218 bird-days. 120 near Saltworks on 6th made it a little easier for our Spooner to hide...

Little Stint Calidris minuta

Three near Saltworks on 7th.

Temminck's Stint Calidris temminckii

Two near Saltworks on 7th.

Long-toed Stint Calidris subminuta

Near Saltworks two (one a fly-by; the other in a ditch) on 6th & one (in same 'scope field-of-view as a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper) on 7th.

***Temminck's/Long-toed Stint

Four headed off on migr near Reservoir at 18h28 on 9th.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper Calidris acuminata

160 bird-days. Noted on five dates. Main events 72 near Saltworks on 6th & 64 there the next day.

Curlew Sandpiper Calidris ferruginea

109 bird-days. Noted on eight dates. Main events 47 near Saltworks on 6th & 25 there the next day.

Dunlin Calidris alpina

450+ bird-days. Main event 225+ on Happy Island on 16th. Remarkably, perhaps, just one amongst all those waders near Saltworks over 6-7th.

Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*

One near Saltworks on 6th – good spotting work, AFS! Unfortunately the bird could not be relocated the following day...

Broad-billed Sandpiper Limicola falcinellus

17 bird-days. Noted on four dates – singles except for 14 at Sandflats on 13th.

Oriental Pratincole Glareola maldivarum

c39 bird-days. Noted on four dates – a distant flock of c25 migr over Lotus Hills on 12th was nice, but none at all on Happy Island.

Black-tailed Gull Larus crassirostris

53 bird-days. Noted on seven dates in May – also seven at Sandflats on 23 June.

'Barabensis' Gull Larus # barabensis

A near-adult flew E past Lighthouse Pt at 06h35 on 12th.

Heuglin's Gull Larus (fuscus) heuglini ssp taimyrensis

37 bird-days. Noted at Lighthouse Pt with 14 migr on 8th, 22 (incl a flock of 12 adults) migr on 9th & one adult migr on 12th.

'Herring' Gull

Noted at Lighthouse Pt with six migr (incl three birulae / mongolicus) on 8th & 12 migr on 9th.

Common Black-headed Gull Larus ridibundus

c361 bird-days. Noted on ten dates. Main event 120 on Sandflats on 20th.

Saunders's Gull Larus saundersi

14 bird-days. 1-4 noted on five dates on Happy Island.

***Surprisingly, very few Relict Gull were seen during the days I was on Happy Island – it is not too unusual to see up to 30 birds there...

Gull-billed Tern Sterna nilotica

149 bird-days. Noted on nine dates. Main events 52 on Happy Island on 15th & 40 there on 18th.

Caspian Tern Sterna caspia

Three bird-days. One flew W past Lighthouse Pt on 9th & singles were on Happy Island on 15+17th.

Common Tern Sterna hirundo

112 bird-days. Noted on five dates – main event 65 (of which 40 at 16h32) on Happy Island on 16th.

Little Tern Sterna albifrons

c364 bird-days. Noted on 11 dates. Main event 160 on Happy Island on 14th... on 18th 29 were seen flying across the island.

Whiskered Tern Chlidonias hybrida

97 bird-days. Noted on five dates in May (of note were 12 high, arriving in off the sea at Sandflats, with one Little Tern, at 11h07 on 13th) & 28 at Sandflats on 23 June.

White-winged Black Tern Chlidonias leucopterus

74 bird-days. Noted on six dates. On 13th two came in high over Sandflats at 11h08...

Blue Hill Pigeon Columba rupestris

One en route back to Beijing from Wulingshan on 24th.

Oriental Turtle Dove Streptopelia orientalis

100 bird-days. Noted on 20 dates, incl 1-3 daily on Happy Island over 14-20th & two in the Reservoir area on 15+16+23 June.

Eurasian Collared Dove Streptopelia decaocto

Nine bird-days. Noted on 8 dates, incl en route back to Beijing on 24th.

Spotted Dove Streptopelia chinensis

23 bird-days. Noted on nine dates - of note was a single on Happy Island on 16+18th.

Large Hawk-Cuckoo Cuculus sparverioides

17 bird-days. A good scattering: singles at Lotus Hills on 10th (heard only), at Yang He on 13th & at Big Wood on 14th, two on Happy Island on both 15+16th (on both dates, one was seen arriving) & one there on 18th (chased off the island by a Japanese Sparrowhawk at 14h30 – the pair disappeared towards N, with the quite a bit smaller raptor harassing the cuckoo with relentless attacks), and at Wulingshan five on 23rd & four on 24th.

Northern Hawk-Cuckoo Cuculus hyperythrus

An immature on Happy Island on 17^{th} & one (heard and glimpsed early in the morning, and at 11h20 seen flying across the valley, singing) at Wulingshan on 24^{th} .

Indian Cuckoo Cuculus micropterus

One heard & seen on Happy Island on 19th, and singles heard at Reservoir on 21st & W of Jin Shan hotel on 22 May, and at Reservoir two on 15+23rd & one on 16 June.

Common Cuckoo Cuculus canorus

20 bird-days. Noted on nine dates from 6th – a modest showing, with just 1-2 on 14+17+18+19+20th on Happy Island.

Oriental Cuckoo Cuculus saturatus

27 bird-days. Noted on nine dates from 14th (when one migr across Bunting Field at 05h39 was followed by singles W of Jin Shan hotel, at Big Wood & on Happy Island). Main events seven on Happy Island on 19th, and four at Wulingshan on both 23+24th.

Lesser Cuckoo Cuculus poliocephalus

One heard at Wulingshan on 23rd.

Lesser Coucal Centropus bengalensis

One adult seen & heard near Reservoir on 23 June... the bird flew into a bush at the edge of the reeds and sat quite exposed for a while, then called before flying off low and disappearing.

***The call, in quality and pitch reminiscent of Ruddy-breasted Crake's, was a series of *kuew* notes, accelerating, then rising, then descending and trailing off...

***One at Radar Marsh on 23 May 2003 (S Bale, JH) appear to have been the only previous record for Beidaihe.

Oriental Scops Owl Otus sunia

25 bird-days. Noted on seven dates in the Beidaihe area – best counts five at Lotus Hills on 11+12th, with two of the latter spotted by SA and seen at point blank range. Also recorded W of Jin Shan hotel (one heard on 13th) and regularly around the Reservoir, incl in June with one on 15th & two on 23rd.

'Brown' Hawk-Owl Ninox scutulata florensis

One on Happy Island on 20th.

Grey Nightjar Caprimulgus jokata

Five bird-days. Noted on three dates – one hawking near Reservoir on 10th, one hawking near the restaurant on Happy Island on 16th & three in Big Wood on 20th.

White-throated Needletail Hirundapus caudacutus

Eight bird-days. One migr over Little Whimbrel Fields on 6th, and on Happy Island three on 16th & four (at 17h53) on 17th.

Common Swift Apus apus

Ten bird-days. Noted on five dates, incl near Reservoir on 16+23 June.

Fork-tailed Swift Apus pacificus

c208 bird-days. Noted on six dates from 9th (when one arrived in off the sea at Lighthouse Pt) – on Happy Island main events 49 on 16th & 157 on 18th (probably there were many more...). One near Reservoir on 23 June as well!

Dollarbird Eurystomus orientalis

Nine bird-days. Two on Happy Island & one at Big Wood on 20th, and one at Lotus Hills on 21 May, and near Reservoir three on 15th & two 'on a wire' on 16 June.

Black-capped Kingfisher Halcyon pileata

Six bird-days. Noted only on Happy Island with singles on 15+16+17+20th & two on 19th.

Common Kingfisher Alcedo atthis

13 bird-days. Noted on ten dates. Of note was one W of Jin Shan hotel ('@ pool over the wall') on 9th.

Hoopoe Upupa epops

43 bird-days. Noted on 14 dates. There were three pairs on Happy Island.

Northern Wryneck Jynx torquilla

Three bird-days – one at Small Wood on 6th & singles on Happy Island on 14+15th.

Rufous-bellied Woodpecker Hypopicus hyperythrus

12 bird-days from 6th. Noted on nine dates. One arrived in off the sea at Lighthouse Pt on 12th, and at Bunting Field one migr on 14th & three (two migr, one heard only) on 21st.

Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker Dendrocopos canicapillus

Six bird-days. Noted at Lotus Hills on three dates & at Bunting Field (one flew S carrying food on 14^{th)}.

White-backed Woodpecker Dendrocopos leucotos

One at Wulingshan on 23rd.

Great Spotted Woodpecker Dendrocopos major

47 bird-days. Noted on 12 dates, incl en route S of Wulingshan entrance gate on 24th.

Grey-headed Woodpecker Picus canus

30 bird-days. Noted on 14 dates, incl two at Wulingshan on 24th.

Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike Coracina melaschistos

Two on Happy Island on 20th.

Ashy Minivet Pericrocotus divaricatus

Seven bird-days. Noted on six dates.

Long-tailed Minivet Pericrocotus ethologus

At Wulingshan eight on 23rd & nine on 24th.

Tiger Shrike Lanius tigrinus

Singles on Happy Island on 20 May & near Reservoir on 16 June.

Bull-headed Shrike Lanius bucephalus

A female or 2nd c-y showed well above HQ at Wulingshan on 23rd.

Brown Shrike Lanius cristatus

311 bird-days. Noted on 17 dates. 58 migr over Bunting Field on 14th, and 11 down towards the beach & W of Jin Shan hotel - later the same day 39 en route to the Happy Island ferry, and 40 on the island in the afternoon (an estimated 500 had passed through during the day: S Robson *et al.*). On 20th 47 on the island, ten at Small Wood & 34 en route back to Beidaihe.

Black-naped Oriole Oriolus chinensis

130 bird-days. One migr near Saltworks on 7th was not followed by another until 12... Main event 35 on Happy Island on 17th. In June around Reservoir two on 15th, three on 16th & one on 23rd.

Black Drongo Dicrurus macrocercus

30 bird-days. Noted on 13 dates from 6th. On Happy Island two on 16th, singles on both 17+20th & four on 19th; on 24th four en route back to Beijing from Wulingshan, and on 16 June four 'on a wire' with Dollarbirds near Reservoir.

Hair-crested Drongo Dicrurus hottentottus

Five bird-days. Noted on Happy Island on four dates – singles on 15+17+19th & two ('one each for Temple Wood & West Wood') on 18th.

Eurasian Jay Garrulus glandarius

Six bird-days. Presumably the same lingering singleton at Lotus Hills on 10+11+12th, and at Wulingshan two on 23rd & one on 24th.

Red-billed Blue Magpie Urocissa erythrorhyncha

21 bird-days. Noted around Beidaihe on six dates.

Common Magpie Pica pica

Common around Beidaihe – nonetheless 50 over the South Lotus Hills ridge on 12th seemed a lot. Unusually, the species was noted daily on Happy Island over 15-20th (16 bird-days – max count six on 20th).

Eurasian Nutcracker Nucifraga caryocatactes

Five bird-days at Wulingshan: four (of which two above HQ) on 23rd & one on 24th.

Large-billed Crow Corvus macrorhynchos

Singles at Wulingshan on 23+24th.

Japanese Waxwing Bombycilla japonica

On Happy Island six distant birds on 16th & one on 18th.

Great Tit Parus major minor

39 bird-days. Noted on eight dates, incl at Wulingshan with four on 23rd & five 24th.

Yellow-bellied Tit Parus venustulus

50 bird-days. Noted on eight dates. Along the coast two at Small Wood on 7th, two (singles probably arriving in off the sea) at Lighthouse Pt on 9th, two heard at Bunting Field on 14th, and at Happy Island 1+ heard on 19th & one on 20th. Wulingshan yielded one on 22nd, 28 on 23rd & 13 on 24th.

Marsh Tit Parus palustris

At Lotus Hills two on 11th & one on 21st; at Wulingshan one on 24th.

Songar Tit Parus songarus

At Wulingshan 18 (of which just one above HQ) on 23rd & eight on 24th.

'Chinese' Penduline Tit Remiz pendulinus consobrinus

215 bird-days. Noted on 14 dates – main event 155 near Dapuhe on 5th. Singles heard in different places in Reservoir area on 16+23 June.

Sand Martin Riparia riparia

33 bird-days. Noted on eight dates. Main event ten ->SW at Happy Island on 15th.

Barn Swallow Hirundo rustica

565+ bird-days. Noted on 13 dates. Main event 350+ migr over Lotus Hills on 12th.

Northern House Martin Delichon urbicum

One flying around over Happy Island Temple on 17th.

Red-rumped Swallow Cecropis daurica

145+ bird-days. Noted on 13 dates, incl c10 over Reservoir/Sandflats on 15+16+23 June.

Long-tailed Tit Aegithalos caudatus vinaceus

Wulingshan yielded 21 (incl at least two juveniles) on 23rd & two on 24th.

Asian Short-toed Lark Calandrella cheleensis

17 bird-days. Noted on six dates – near Saltworks five on 6th & eight on 7th, one singing at Sandflats on 13th & singles on Happy Island on 16+17+18th.

Fan-tailed Warbler Cisticola juncidis

16 bird-days. Noted on five dates – main event eight on 6th: five near Dapuhe, one at Little Whimbrel Fields & two near Saltworks. One at Sandflats on 23 June was less of a surprise than the fact that none were found on Happy Island over 14-20 May...

Chinese Bulbul Pycnonotus sinensis

144+ bird-days. Noted on 17 dates. Main event c42 (of which a flock of c40 arrived in off the sea) at Lighthouse Pt & 17+ (maybe some overlap) W of Jin Shan hotel on 9th. On Happy Island 1-11 daily over 15-20th.

Japanese Marsh Warbler Megalurus pryeri

Singles on Happy Island on 20 May & near Reservoir on 16 June.

Short-tailed Bush Warbler (= Asian Stubtail) Urosphena squamiceps

Two on Happy Island on 15th.

Pere David's Bush Warbler Bradypterus davidi

Two bird-days. One was seen very well on Happy Island on 15th & another heard singing W of Jin Shan hotel on 21st.

Lanceolated Warbler Locustella lanceolata

31 bird-days. Noted on eight dates from 13th – best day 20th with 12 on Happy Island & four at Small Wood. One at Wulingshan on 23rd...

Thick-billed Warbler Phragmaticola aedon

33 bird-days. Noted on seven dates from 13th. Best day 20th with 18 on Happy Island & two at Small Wood; the following day there were six W of Jin Shan hotel...

Oriental Great Reed Warbler Acrocephalus orientalis

31 bird-days. Noted on seven dates from 11th (when one was singing at Yang He)... next one not until 19th. In June in the Reservoir area three on 15th, 11 on 16th & seven on 23rd.

Black-browed Reed Warbler Acrocephalus bistrigiceps

93 bird-days. Noted on 14 dates from 10th – a notable influx on 20th with 23 on Happy Island, three at Small Wood & two at Big Wood. Three in the Reservoir area on 16 June were late migrants...

Manchurian Reed Warbler Acrocephalus tangorum

One on Happy Island on 20th was a bonus bird for AB, PL & AFS

Dusky Warbler Phylloscopus fuscatus

275 bird-days. Noted on 20 dates – on Happy Island ten on 14th, 32 on 15th, 17 on 16th, eight on both 17+18th, 31 on 19th & 34 on 20th. Wulingshan yielded singletons on 23+24th.

Tickell's Leaf Warbler Phylloscopus affinis

One at c2,050m on Wulingshan on 23rd was a good find – the following day there were 2-3 birds in the same spot [W Velmala *et al.*]... potentially an irregular breeder in N Hebei?

Yellow-streaked Warbler Phylloscopus armandii

A singing bird was seen W of Jin Shan hotel on 12th & one was heard on Happy Island on 17th – on Wulingshan 11 (of which nine were above HQ) on 23rd & one on 24th.

Radde's Warbler Phylloscopus schwarzi

104 bird-days. Noted on 15 dates from 7th – on Happy Island two on 14th, 13 on 15th, six on 16th, four on both 17+18th, six on 19th & 24 on 20th... the last influx occurred a day after a major influx of other *Phylloscopus* warblers & flycatchers.

Chinese Leaf Warbler Phylloscopus yunnanensis

One heard W of Jin Shan hotel on 21st was the only one along the coast; on Wulingshan c31 (incl just one above HQ) on 23rd & 28 on 24th.

Pallas's Leaf Warbler Phylloscopus proregulus

218 bird-days. Noted on 19 dates – on Happy Island 18 on 15th, 27 on 16th, 21 on 17th, 16 on 18th, 32 on 19th & 13 on 20th. Wulingshan yielded three on both 23+24th.

Yellow-browed Warbler Phylloscopus inornatus

247 bird-days. Noted on 18 dates – on Happy Island two on 14th, five on 15th, 15 on 16th, nine on 17th, six on 18th, 22 on 19th & four on 20th. A stop at Big Wood on 14th yielded 24...

Hume's Leaf Warbler Phylloscopus humei

At Wulingshan five heard on 22nd, c155 (of which c115 were above HQ) on 23rd & 40 on 24th.

Arctic Warbler Phylloscopus borealis

56 bird-days. Noted on nine dates from 16th – main event (as with Greenish Warbler) on 19th, with 26 on Happy Island. On Wulingshan two on 23rd & three on 24th.

Greenish Warbler Phylloscopus trochiloides plumbeitarsus

108 bird-days. Noted on 12 dates from 7th – main event 40 on Happy Island on 19th.

Pale-legged Leaf Warbler Phylloscopus tenellipes

37 bird-days. Noted on 12 dates from 7th – main event 11 on Happy Island on 19th. One was found on Wulingshan on 23rd.

Eastern Crowned Warbler Phylloscopus coronatus

Nine bird-days. Noted on six dates from 5th, incl on Happy Island with singles on 15+19th & three on 20th.

Claudia's Leaf Warbler Phylloscopus claudiae

132 bird-days. Noted on eight dates along the coast from 7th – one at Lighthouse Pt on 9th showed particularly well, actively feeding in a manner recalling a nuthatch. On Wulingshan 46 on 23rd & 75 on 24th.

Vinous-throated Parrotbill Paradoxornis webbianus

Noted near the Reservoir on six dates (incl on 15 June) – mostly heard-only but on 13 May eight 'flew across the path etc'...

Chestnut-flanked White-eye Zosterops erythropleurus

c315 bird-days. Noted on 14 dates. Main event 150 at Happy Island on 17th.

Japanese White-eye Zosterops japonicus

Four bird-days. One seen & heard singing at Big Wood on 6th, and on Happy Island one heard on 15th & two on 17th.

Northern Wren Troglodytes troglodytes

At Wulingshan ten (of which one was seen nest-building) on 23rd & seven on 24th.

Eurasian Nuthatch Sitta europaea

At Wulingshan three on 23rd & six on 24th.

Chinese Nuthatch Sitta villosa

Five at Wulingshan on 24th.

***Crested Myna Acridotheres cristellatus Feral

17 bird-days. Noted at Beidaihe on seven dates – one flying N over Bei Ling at 04h40 on 14th was a 'garden' 1st...

Daurian Starling Sturnus sturninus

Eight bird-days. On Happy Island singles on 15+17+20th & four on 18th – in addition, one at Small Wood on 20th.

Red-billed Starling Sturnus sericeus

At Happy Island one flew W with a Daurian Starling at 05h31 on 20th.

White-cheeked Starling Sturnus cineraceus

28 bird-days. Noted on six dates – surprisingly, just one on Happy Island (on 20th). Four were seen en route N of Beijing on 24th.

Siberian Thrush Zoothera sibirica

Four bird-days. Noted on three dates – singles on Happy Island on 16+19+20th & a male in Small Wood also on 20th.

White's Thrush Zoothera aurea

Nine bird-days. Noted on five dates – on Happy Island seen only on 19th, when two were in The Ditch with a male Siberian Blue Robin.

Grey-backed Thrush Turdus hortulorum

Four bird-days. Possibly the same 2nd c-y male W of Jin Shan hotel on 13+14+21st & one heard at Big Wood also on 14th.

Chinese Blackbird Turdus mandarinus

One W of Jin Shan hotel on 11th was 'maybe a 2nd c-y male: rather brown... bill bright yellow'.

Grey-sided Thrush Turdus feae

29 bird-days. One W of Jin Shan hotel on 9th, and at Wulingshan 19 on 23rd & nine on 24th.

Eyebrowed Thrush Turdus obscurus

42 bird-days. Noted on 14 dates.

Naumann's Thrush Turdus naumanni

12 bird-days. Noted on seven dates – mostly *eunomus*, but also a couple of hybrids, and a full-blown *naumanni* W of Jin Shan hotel on 11th. Last record of the season concerned a single *eunomus* on Happy Island on 19th.

Chinese Song Thrush Turdus mupinensis

16 bird-days. Two singing (incorporating mimicry of Large Hawk Cuckoo: single three-note calls) at Lotus Hills on 10th, singles W of Jin Shan hotel on 13+21st, one on Happy Island on 19th, and at Wulingshan eight on 23rd & three on 24th.

***The song of this species is somewhat whimsical, nearly as melodious as White-throated Rock Thrush's but incorporating grating notes – e g Large Hawk Cuckoo mimicry; meowing – and is at times repetitive; also more fluid runs recalling Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*.

***On the whole probably prefers a less exposed song post than e g White-throated Rock Thrush – one of the Wulingshan birds perched near the top of one of two side-by-side spruces.

Bluethroat Luscinia svecica

17 bird-days. Noted on eight dates – main event five on Happy Island on 20th.

Siberian Rubythroat Luscinia calliope

19 bird-days. Noted on six dates. One sitting out near Saltworks on 7th got the Spooner Twitching Team into gear – best day 20th, with five on Happy Island & six at Small Wood.

Siberian Blue Robin Luscinia cyane

180 bird-days. Noted on 17 dates from 7th – best day along the coast 20th, with 22 on Happy Island, 19 in Small Wood & nine in Big Wood... at Wulingshan 26 males on 23rd & 34 (mostly singing males) on 24th.

Rufous-tailed Robin Luscinia sibilans

20 bird-days. Noted on four dates from 15th – best day 20th with five on Happy Island, three in Small Wood & five in Big Wood... the next day one was heard singing at Lighthouse Pt & two were in scrub W of Jin Shan hotel.

Northern Red-flanked Bluetail Tarsiger cyanurus

Three bird-days. Singles at Lighthouse Pt on 8th (heard only), on Happy Island on 15th & in Big Wood on 20th.

Daurian Redstart Phoenicurus auroreus

At Wulingshan 20 on 23rd & 17 on 24th.

White-bellied Redstart Hodgsonius phaenicuroides

At Wulingshan 13 (outrageous views of a male above HQ: out in the open at <5m!) on 23rd & 15 on 24th.

Common Stonechat Saxicola torquatus

124 bird-days. Noted on 12 dates. 28 migr at Bunting Field on 14th...just three there on 21st, the last of the spring.

Blue Rock Thrush Monticola solitarius

Three bird-days. Singletons noted on 13th at Sandflats & on Happy island on 19+20th.

White-throated Rock Thrush Monticola gularis

13 bird-days. On Happy Island two females on 19th & one male on 20th – on Wulingshan one male on 23rd & nine singing males on 24th.

- ***In addition, a bird seen fleetingly W of Jin Shan hotel on 11th was probably a male of this species.
- ***The song of this species is more fluid, more melodious, more Eurasian Blackbird *Turdus merula*-like than Chinese Song Thrush's. Showed a preference for exposed perches when singing, i e the top of a major spruce...

Grey-streaked Flycatcher Muscicapa griseisticta

Six bird-days. One in Small Wood on 7^{th} , and on Happy Island two on both 15+19th & one on 17th.

Sooty Flycatcher Muscicapa sibirica

32 bird-days. Noted on seven dates from 14th – main event 19 on Happy Island on 19th. Wulingshan yielded one on 23rd.

Asian Brown Flycatcher Muscicapa dauurica

87 bird-days. Noted on 15 dates from 7th – main event 36 on Happy Island on 19th. Wulingshan yielded just one, on 24th: a singing bird which hung out in the same spot for at least two hours...

Yellow-rumped Flycatcher Ficedula zanthopygia

51 bird-days. Noted on 15 dates from 6th – main event on Happy Island nine on 19th, with five there the next day plus seven in Small Wood & four in Big Wood. Four at Lotus Hills on 21st included a tireless songster. A singing male was seen well at Wulingshan on 23rd.

Elisa's Flycatcher Ficedula elisae

13 bird-days. On Happy Island an immature male on 17th & a '2nd c-y type' bird on 19th; Wulingshan yielded six (incl a breeding pair: the female was seen carrying food) on 23rd & five on 24th.

***A male on 23rd uttered an inquisitive, abrupt, throaty 'crrr'.

Mugimaki Flycatcher Ficedula mugimaki

Nine bird-days. A male on Lighthouse Pt on 8th, a female-type at Lotus Hill on 10th, and on Happy Island one on 14th & six on 19th.

Red-throated Flycatcher Ficedula albicilla

101 bird-days. Noted on 17 dates from 5th. Main event 21 on Happy Island on 19th.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow Passer montanus

Common – not systematically recorded.

Forest Wagtail Dendronanthus indicus

24 bird-days. Noted on ten dates from 7th (when two were in Big Wood)... two were singing in Reservoir area on 15 June.

Eastern Yellow Wagtail Motacilla tschutschensis

295 bird-days. Noted on 17 dates.

Citrine Wagtail Motacilla citreola

A fly-by near Saltworks on 7th.

Grey Wagtail Motacilla cinerea

12 bird-days. Noted on nine dates, incl en route S of Wulingshan entrance gate on 24th (a singing bird up on a wire).

White Wagtail Motacilla alba

31 bird-days. Noted on 13 dates, incl in June in Reservoir area (three, of which one was a juvenile, on 16th) & at Sandflats (one on 23rd).

Richard's Pipit Anthus richardi

103 bird-days. Noted on 13 days, incl one migr over Wulingshan on 24th.

Blyth's Pipit Anthus godlewskii

Six bird-days. Noted on five dates: singles at Bunting Field on 14+21st, and on Happy Island singles on 17+20th & two on 19th.

Olive-backed Pipit Anthus hodgsoni

117 bird-days. Noted on 14 dates.

Pechora Pipit Anthus gustavi

Four bird-days. Noted at Lighthouse Pt (one flying around at 05h51), singles over Happy Island at 05h10 on 16th & at 05h35 on 19th, and over Bunting Field at 05h20 on 21st.

Red-throated Pipit Anthus cervinus

18 bird-days. Noted on four dates – main event ten near Saltworks on 7th. Just one on Happy Island, on 17th.

Buff-bellied Pipit Anthus rubescens japonicus

Two near Saltworks on 6th & one there the next day.

Brambling Fringilla montifringilla

12 bird-days. Noted on seven dates – the last were three at Big Wood on 20th...

Oriental Greenfinch Carduelis sinica

13 bird-days. Noted around Beidaihe on six dates.

Eurasian Siskin Carduelis spinus

Five bird-days. One near Saltworks on 7th, one in Lotus Hills on 10th, singles on Happy Island on 15+19th & one at Wulingshan on 23rd.

Common Rosefinch Carpodacus erythrinus

105 bird-days. Noted on 12 dates. Main events c20 on Happy Island on 16th & 25 there on 18th – in addition AB *et al.* counted 69 migr on 19th... Wulingshan yielded just one, on 23rd.

Red Crossbill Loxia curvirostra

One at Lotus Hills on 11th.

Chinese Grosbeak Eophona migratoria

37 bird-days. Noted on 13 dates – main event in terms of views obtained was 4-5 at Jin Shan Beach over 8-9th, feeding on elm seeds along the road. Happy Island yielded four on both 15+17th, seven on 16th, three on 18th, two on 19th & one on 20th.

Japanese Grosbeak Eophona personata

An unobtrusive singleton hung out near the Happy Island accommodation over 19-20th.

Eastern Rock Bunting Emberiza godlewskii

At Wulingshan ten (of which seven above HQ) on 23rd & five on 24th.

Meadow Bunting Emberiza cioides

One at Lighthouse Pt on 8th was now rather a good find (20 years ago the species was a fairly common breeder...). A male singing above the Wulingshan HQ on 23rd was much appreciated...

Tristram's Bunting Emberiza tristrami

20 bird-days. Noted on nine dates.

Chestnut-eared Bunting Emberiza fucata

11 bird-days. Noted on eight dates. Last record concerned one in Bunting Field on 21st.

Little Bunting Emberiza pusilla

114 bird-days. Noted on 13 dates. Main event 75 migr near Saltworks on 7th.

Yellow-browed Bunting Emberiza chrysophrys

One migr near Saltworks on 7th was, surprisingly, the only record.

Yellow-throated Bunting Emberiza elegans

Six bird-days. One at Reservoir on 5th, two at Big Wood on 7th, and singles on Happy Island on 15+16+19th.

Yellow-breasted Bunting Emberiza aureola

29 bird-days. Noted on five dates. Main event 21 near Saltworks on 7th.

Chestnut Bunting Emberiza rutila

17 bird-days. Noted on five dates. Main event ten on Happy Island on 17th. Wulingshan yielded three on 23rd.

Black-faced Bunting Emberiza spodocephala

106 bird-days. Noted on 14 dates. Main event 50 migr near Saltworks on 7th.

Pallas's Reed Bunting Emberiza pallasi

Ten bird-days. Noted on just four dates – surprisingly, last record concerned four at Sandflats on 13th.