

# Southern Manchuria 6-10 May 2009.

***An at-a-glance list of 139 species of birds recorded.***

*By Jesper Hornskov*

\*\*\*this draft 23 Aug 2009\*\*\* ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

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

Based mostly on my own field notes, this brief write-up covers the birds noted on a visit to Manchuria in search of waterfowl, cranes & Jankowski's Bunting by a DOF (Danish Orn. Soc.) group – the tour also covered Beijing's Wild Duck Lake, Happy Island & NE Tibet.

Group members were J H Christensen (DOF), J Fabricius, L Fabricius, C Jensen, G Jensen, J M Joergensen, L Kastrup, K V Kleffel, J Lehmborg, K Mikkelsen, S Pettersson, H V Rasmussen, J Reeh, P Rodemann & myself.

Thank you all for making this trip so enjoyable!

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

Tel/fax +86 10 8490 9562 / mobile +86 135 1335 9831

E-mail [goodbirdmail\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:goodbirdmail(at)gmail.com) or [goodbirdmail\(at\)126.com](mailto:goodbirdmail(at)126.com)

In the species list the concept "bird-days" is used - it is the avian equivalent of man-hours: for example, separate flocks of ten and 15 Henri's Snowfinches moving through score 25 bird-days, as would the same single individual seen daily for 25 days. The sum of day totals - a handy measure of relative abundance, nothing more.

The sequence of the bird list follows *The Howard and Moore Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World – 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition* (Dickinson 2003), in my opinion by far the most useful one-volume checklist to date.

Initials in brackets after a few single-observer sightings does not imply that I have doubts as to the correctness of the ID.

## **Species list:**

**Daurian Partridge** *Perdix dauurica*  
13 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Japanese Quail** *Coturnix japonica*  
One on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*  
21 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Swan Goose** *Anser cygnoides*  
47 bird-days. Noted on three dates – superb views of this graceful bird...

**Bean Goose** *Anser fabalis*  
c2,580 bird-days. Noted on five dates – main event 1,620 on 8<sup>th</sup>.  
\*\*\*Both spp *middendorffii* & *serrirostris* were identified.

**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*  
Six bird-days. Noted on two dates.

**Greater White-fronted Goose** *Anser albifrons*  
c296 bird-days. Noted on four dates – main event 230 on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Lesser White-fronted Goose** *Anser erythropus*  
Three on 7<sup>th</sup> – tingaling!

**Bewick's Swan** *Cygnus columbianus*  
15 adults on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*  
47 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*  
Seven bird-days. Noted on two dates.

**Gadwall** *Anas strepera*  
104 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Falcated Duck** *Anas falcata*  
44 bird-days. Noted on four dates – nice views!!

**Eurasian Wigeon** *Anas penelope*  
21 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*  
27 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Chinese Spotbill** *Anas zonorhyncha*  
12 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*  
c87 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*  
225+ bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Garganey** *Anas querquedula*  
19 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Baikal Teal** *Anas formosa*  
389+ bird-days. This superb duck was noted on no less than four dates – satisfying ‘scope views: WOW!

**Common Teal** *Anas crecca*  
1,060+ bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Common Pochard** *Aythya ferina*  
188+ bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Baer’s Pochard** *Aythya baeri*  
Five birds – three males & two females, all at reasonable range and even doing some displaying – were found on 8<sup>th</sup>.  
\*\*\*This sighting was a direct result of our ‘going with the flow’ – more specifically a *Force Majeure* adjustment to our itinerary had presented us with the option of potentially revisiting the Siberian Cranes, something we might do to enjoy the unique spectacle but without knowingly improving our chances of locating remaining ‘realistic’ targets (JH had not recorded this highly endangered species on any of his previous five visits to S Manchuria). Feeling we needed no excuse we went back – no votes against! – and had what would even without the Baer’s Pochards have been a very rewarding morning.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*  
55 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**White-winged Scoter** *Melanitta deglandi stejnegeri*  
12 birds – ten males & two females – was a bonus on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*  
One on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*  
22 birds – nine males & 13 females – were discovered on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*  
15 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*  
16 bird-days. Noted on three dates...

**Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*  
48 bird-days. Noted on four dates – main event 40 on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Oriental White Stork** *Ciconia boyciana*

A long encounter with two on 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Eurasian Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*

Three on 9<sup>th</sup> & one on 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Eurasian Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*

Six bird-days. Noted on three dates – main event four on 10<sup>th</sup>, of which one was booming out in the open...

**Chinese Pond Heron** *Ardeola bacchus*

Two on 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

23 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*

45 bird-days. Noted on three dates – it was sheer joy getting repeated looks at close range at birds in full breeding plumage!

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba*

Probably the same singleton seen both on 9+10<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

12 bird-days. Noted on two dates.

**Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Four bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Amur Falcon** *Falco amurensis*

94+ bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

Superb views of a female on 9<sup>th</sup> – perched, then flying over at <25m.

**Eurasian Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

One on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

One adult on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Eastern Marsh Harrier** *Circus spilonotus*

Eight bird-days. Noted on three dates – main event six on 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

A 2<sup>nd</sup> c-y bird was seen on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Pied Harrier** *Circus melanoleucos*

9-10 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo japonicus*

One on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Upland Buzzard** *Buteo hemilasius*

One on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Steppe Eagle** *Aquila nipalensis*

One on 9<sup>th</sup> – a nice surprise!

**Great Bustard** *Otis tarda*

21 birds – 19 males & two females... and there was much inside-out displaying!

**Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

Two on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Coot** *Fulica atra*

Nine bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Demoiselle Crane** *Anthropoides virgo*

Two seen at reasonable range on 9<sup>th</sup>...

**Siberian Crane** *Grus leucogeranus*

Completely stole the show w/ 1,456 on 6<sup>th</sup>, 1,537 on 7<sup>th</sup> & >1,700 on 8<sup>th</sup>...

**White-naped Crane** *Grus vipio*

Two on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Crane** *Grus grus*

Two on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Hooded Crane** *Grus monacha*

23 bird-days. Noted on three dates – probably no more than eight individuals...

**Red-crowned Crane** *Grus japonensis*

We enjoyed watching a breeding pair on both 8+9<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*

185+ bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Pied Avocet** *Recurvirosta avosetta*

c46 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Northern Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

c75 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Grey-headed Lapwing** *Vanellus cinereus*

45+ bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva*

16 bird-days. Noted on just two dates.

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*  
26 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*  
Four on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Pintail Snipe** *Gallinago stenura*  
Two on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*  
40 bird-days. Noted on four dates.  
\*\*\*In addition, four unidentified Swinhoe's G. megala / Common Snipes on 8<sup>th</sup>, and four snipe sp. on 9<sup>th</sup>...

**Asian Dowitcher** *Limnodromus semipalmatus*  
Five bird-days. This sought-after species was seen on two dates.

**Eastern Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa melanuroides*  
580+ bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Eurasian Curlew** *Numenius arquata*  
14 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*  
Three bird-days. Noted on two dates.

**Common Redshank** *Tringa totanus*  
11 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*  
286 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*  
Five bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*  
Eight on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*  
c230 bird-days. Noted on four dates – a memorable flock of c100 heading N low over the road on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*  
18 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Red-necked Stint** *Calidris ruficollis*  
Seven on 9<sup>th</sup> – excellent views!

**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*  
c15 on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Long-toed Stint** *Calidris subminuta*

Two on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** *Calidris acuminata*

One on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

16 bird-days. Noted on two dates.

**Oriental Pratincole** *Glareola maldivarum*

c130 bird-days. Noted on five dates – main event 65 on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**'Yellow-legged' Gull** *Larus 'cachinnans' mongolicus*

A 2<sup>nd</sup> c-y bird was seen well on 10<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*In addition, two adult 'Herring' Gulls were seen on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*

110 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Caspian Tern** *Sterna caspia*

One on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

46+ bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Little Tern** *Sterna albifrons*

Two on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida*

21 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**White-winged Black Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*

One on 8<sup>th</sup> & four on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Oriental Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia orientalis*

33 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Eurasian Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

Five bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

Singles noted on two dates – one 'scoped on 8<sup>th</sup> was a treat!

**Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

Ten bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Northern Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*

Six bird-days. Noted on two dates – a fall of no less than five on 9<sup>th</sup> was a bonus.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

Singles on two dates.

**Chinese Grey Shrike** *Lanius sphenocercus*

Eight bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Common Magpie** *Pica pica*

Common – not systematically recorded.

**Daurian Jackdaw** *Corvus dauuricus*

21 bird-days. Noted on four dates – ‘scope views were had of both pied adults & all-dark 2<sup>nd</sup> c-y birds: Tingaling!

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

41 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

One on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Bohemian Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulus*

Two on 9<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*There was probably also a Japanese Waxwing *Bombycilla japonica* there...

**‘Chinese’ Penduline Tit** *Remiz pendulinus consobrinus*

17 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

1,270+ bird-days. Noted on four dates – main event 885+ on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

520+ bird-days. Noted daily.

**Northern House Martin** *Delichon urbicum*

Two on 9<sup>th</sup>.

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

73+ bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Mongolian Lark** *Melanocorypha mongolica*

Nine – several of which showed extremely well - on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**‘Asian’ Lesser Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella ‘cheleensis’*

16 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Eurasian Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

Common. Main event c20 on 7<sup>th</sup> – a nest containing four eggs was found...

**Chinese Hill Warbler** *Rhopophilus pekinensis*

One in the hotel grounds on both 8+9<sup>th</sup>.

**Dusky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

11 bird-days. Noted on three dates.



**Pallas's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus*  
Three bird-days. Noted on just two dates...

**Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*  
11 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**White-cheeked Starling** *Sturnus cineraceus*  
15 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Eyebrowed Thrush** *Turdus obscurus*  
A superb male was 'scoped on 9<sup>th</sup>!

**Naumann's Thrush** *Turdus naumanni*  
Five bird-days. Noted on two dates.

**Bluethroat** *Luscinia svecica*  
Five bird-days. Noted on two dates.

**Siberian Rubythroat** *Luscinia calliope*  
Five bird-days. Noted on two dates.

**'Siberian' Common Stonechat** *Saxicola 'torquatus'*  
c38 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Red-throated Flycatcher** *Ficedula albicilla*  
14 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*  
Common – not systematically recorded.

**Eastern Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla tschutschensis*  
525+ bird-days. Noted daily – main event 325+ coming in to roost on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola*  
Single females on two dates...

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*  
Seven bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*  
Singles on two dates.

**Richard's Pipit** *Anthus richardi*  
Two on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni*  
Eight bird-days. Noted on two dates.

**Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus*  
Four on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Buff-bellied Pipit** *Anthus rubescens*  
Seven bird-days. Noted on our dates.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*  
One on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Meadow Bunting** *Emberiza cioides*  
Five on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Jankowski's Bunting** *Emberiza jankowskii*

Persistence paid off – one in flight & then sitting up on 7<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*JH *et al.* having drawn a blank a week earlier we were all more or less resigned to probably dipping on this at best near-extinct mega but, determined to do all we could, we kept at it and finally found one in a new – apparently never before birded – area.

\*\*\*On the earlier visit we threw some 30 man(/woman) hours at it at what was then the only known remaining site for the species. On visits to this area in 2004, 2005 & 2006 (JH *et al.* pers obs) we found it 'without undue difficulty', i.e. mostly within half an hour of starting to look for it. Needless to say we were shocked and dismayed to find half of the already tiny core area, part of a reserve and fenced in specially, to have been rendered unsuitable for the species - clearly the work of a combine harvester. None of this is very surprising, if still terribly sad. Broadly speaking the species' slip towards extinction started with the opening up of Ussuriland and Manchuria to ever-more intense grazing and agriculture in the 1800s.

**Tristram's Bunting** *Emberiza tristrami*  
Two on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla*  
c100 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Yellow-browed Bunting** *Emberiza chrysophrys*  
One on 6<sup>th</sup>,

**Yellow-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza aureola* P  
Five bird-days. Noted on two dates.

**Black-faced Bunting** *Emberiza spodocephala*  
17 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Pallas's Reed Bunting** *Emberiza pallasi*  
Eight bird-days. Noted on three dates.