

Beidaihe area, 28 Aug – 1 Sep 2011

An at-a-glance list of 129 species of birds recorded.

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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 by M Campbell, T Ford, J Holmes, I Robinson, A Sun, & myself on a visit to Beidaihe, Hebei, China, after completing the 2011 Oriental Bird Club Fundraiser to NE Tibet.

We recorded 129 species of birds without any undue rushing about. Everything – the ease of the birdwatching, the outstanding food, extremely comfortable accommodations & (not least) the companionship - came together to produce a pleasant & enjoyable short break.

Thank you all for making this trip so memorable! Special thanks are due to Michael Edgecombe for volunteering to coordinate the OBC trip.

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Enquiries concerning future **Oriental Bird Club Fundraisers** - to Yunnan, following an updated itinerary, or NE Tibet (our near-annual trips have been very popular) - can be made to Michael Edgecombe, OBC's Promotion Officer, at [mail\(at\)orientalbirdclub.org](mailto:mail(at)orientalbirdclub.org) or directly to this author.

In the species list the concept "bird-days" is used - it is the avian equivalent of man-hours, the day totals added up – it indicates relative abundance but does not consider the “problem” of lingering birds or, important in a non-scientific context such as a birding holiday abroad, how satisfying the encounters were. 25 bird-days for e.g. Spoon-billed Sandpiper could be one distant flock of migrating birds, gone in a flash, or one bird lingering for 25 days, offering the observers point-blank views anytime in that period...

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

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Species List:

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

A singleton at Great Wall on 29th.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

One in flight with other ducks in the evening of 31st.

Falcated Duck *Anas falcata*

Eight doing laps over the mudflats on 1st.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

11 bird-days. Noted on two dates.

Chinese Spotbill *Anas zonorhyncha*

8+ on 30th.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

15 on 1st.

Common Teal *Anas crecca*

14 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Three bird-days. Noted on two dates.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

A single adult on 30th was the only record.

Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*

Four bird-days. Noted on just two dates.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

14+ bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus*

21 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

49 bird-days. Noted on four dates – main event 29 on the mudflats on 29th.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Four bird-days. Excellent views were had on two dates.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

203 bird-days. Noted daily.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

975+ bird-days. Noted daily.

Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus*

An obliging juvenile on the mudflats on 29th – gone after the high tide...

***Apparently previously unrecorded for Beidaihe.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*
29 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*
One 1st c-y bird over the mudflats on 1st.

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*
20+ bird-days. Noted on three dates – main event 15+ hawking over Great Wall on 29th.

Saker *Falco cherrug*
One (probably a 2nd c-y) flew S over the mudflats - causing an eruption of gulls and terns – on 28th.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*
A superb 1st c-y drifting about over Great Wall on 29th.

Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus*
One 1st c-y on 30th.

Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos*
One on 29th & two on 30th – all were 1st c-y.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
20 on 30th.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*
80 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Pied Avocet *Recurvirosta avosetta*
37 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus*
Two were seen well on 30th.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*
Three migr on 31st.

Grey Plover *Vanellus squatarola*
Nine bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Long-billed Plover *Charadrius placidus*
Four on 30th – three headed off on migration but one allowed 'scoping at close range...
***Rarely recorded along the coast.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
109 bird-days. Noted daily – main event 58 (incl 44 migr) on 31st.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*
455+ bird-days. Noted daily.

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*
12 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*
Singletons were noted on three dates.

Pintail Snipe *Gallinago stenura*

Ten bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Swinhoe's Snipe *Gallinago megala*

33 bird-days. Noted on three dates – main event 20 migr (incl no less than ten together at 09h05) on 31st.

***Rarely recorded in such numbers!

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

39 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Eastern Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa melanuroides*

Three on 30th.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

30 bird-days. Noted on four dates – main event 24 (incl 20 migr) on 29th.

Little Whimbrel *Numenius minutus*

Outstanding views of a grounded singleton on 29th – which then headed off at 06h50...

***In 1996 during a late August Teachers' Special visit "an undoubted highlight of the trip was seeing one of these graceful bird close-up as we were eating breakfast in the grassy dunes on 23rd".

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

76 bird-days. Noted daily – main event 36 on 28th.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

24 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Far Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*

Nine bird-days. Noted on three dates.

***It was nice to see mixed flocks of curlews...

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Four bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

99 bird-days. Noted on three dates – main event 54 (mainly migr) on 31st.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

112 bird-days. Noted daily – main event 38 migr on 31st.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

17-18 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

43 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

17 bird-days. This charismatic, vocal wader was noted on four dates.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

26 bird-days. Noted daily.

Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes*

58 bird-days. Noted on four dates – memorable views...

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*

110 bird-days. Noted daily – ‘scope views of groups feeding at close range: TINGALING!

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

Three bir-days. Noted on just two dates.

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

355+ bird-days. Noted daily – main event 147 on 1st.

Temminck’s Stint *Calidris temminckii*

A winter-plumaged adult w/ two 1st c-y on 31st was the only record.

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*

Seven bird-days. Diligent scanning yielded records on no less than four dates.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*

Five bird-days. Noted on two dates.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

29 bird-days. Noted on just two dates – main event 28 migr on 31st.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

49 bir-days. Noted on four dates.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*

Four bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum*

Two migr on 31st.

Black-tailed Gull *Larus crassirostris*

540+ bird-days. this exotic-looking species was noted daily.

‘Yellow-legged’ Gull *Larus (cachinnans) mongolicus*

15 bird-days. 1st c-y birds were noted on four dates.

Heuglin’s Gull *Larus (fuscus) heuglini ssp taimyrensis*

Eight bird-days. 1st c-y birds were noted on three dates.

Common Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

5,630+ bird-days. Noted daily.

Saunders’s Gull *Larus saundersi*

Possibly the same 1st c-y daily over 28-30th.

Relict Gull *Larus relictus*

Ten bird-days. Noted on no less than four dates – a group of four ‘non-1st winters’ on 1st were particularly satisfying, allowing prolonged ‘scoping in crisp pre-breakfast light.

Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica*

Six bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*

One adult on 29th.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

1,280+ bird-days. Noted daily – main event 590 on 30th.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

26 on 30th.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

318 bird-days. Noted daily – main event 162 migr on 30th.

Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*

18+ bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Four bird-days. Noted on just two dates.

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

Three bird-days. Noted on two dates.

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Good views of three birds on 1st.

Black-capped Kingfisher *Halcyon pileata*

Eight bird-days. Noted daily – main event four on 29th.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Six bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

One on 31st.

Northern Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Two on 1st.

Rufous-bellied Woodpecker *Hypopicus hyperythrus*

Two were seen well on 1st...

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Singletons on both 29th & 1st.

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*

83 bird-days. Noted on four dates – main event 59 on 1st.

Chinese Grey Shrike *Lanius sphenocercus*

Superb views of a low key individual on 1st.

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*

Six bird-days. Noted on three dates – a frame-filler on 29th was especially nice!

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*

Seven bird-days. Noted on two dates.

Red-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*

27+ bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Common Magpie *Pica pica*

Common – not systematically recorded.

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*

Heard at Great Wall.

Eastern Great Tit *Parus minor*

13 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Yellow-bellied Tit *Parus venustulus*

An elusive 1st c-y on 30th...

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Small numbers only...

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

Small numbers most days...

Fan-tailed Warbler *Cisticola juncidis*

Six on 30th.

Chinese Bulbul *Pycnonotus sinensis*

19 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella certhiola*

Two on 30th & one on 1st.

Thick-billed Warbler *Phragmaticola aedon*

Six bird-days. Noted on just two dates...

Oriental Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis*

Nine bird-days. Noted on three dates – main event six on 30th.

Black-browed Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*

14 bird-days. Noted on just two dates – main event 13 on 30th... 2-3 of them were downy-headed juveniles.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

Two on 1st.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

11 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*

Five on 30th & two on 31st...

'Two-barred' Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides plumbeitarsus*

Singletons were noted on three dates.

Pale-legged Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus tenellipes*

Six bird-days. Noted on just two dates.

Eastern Crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus coronatus*

A singleton showed well on 31st.

Pere David's Laughingthrush *Garrulax davidi*

11 at Great Wall on 29th.

Vinous-throated Parrotbill *Paradoxornis webbianus*

8+ bird-days. Noted on four dates.

*****Crested Myna** *Acridotheres cristellatus* Feral

Two on 31st.

White-cheeked Starling *Sturnus cineraceus*

Singletons were noted on two dates.

Chinese Blackbird *Turdus mandarinus*

One on 29th.

Siberian Blue Robin *Luscinia cyane*

Two on 1st.

Daurian Redstart *Phoenicurus aureus*

Two heard at Great Wall on 29th.

Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*

15+ bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Eastern Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola philippensis*

One at Great Wall on 29th.

Sooty Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica*

A superb 1st c-y was 'scoped on 1st.

Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica*

Ten bird-days. Noted on four dates.

***In addition, a couple of unidentified 'brown' flycatchers were logged...

Red-throated Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla*

13 bird-days. Noted on just two dates – 12 on 1st was taken as proof that autumn had kicked in...

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Common – not systematically recorded.

Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis*

244+ bird-days. Noted daily.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Four bird-days. Noted on two dates.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba leucopsis*

21 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*

15 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

Three on 30th.

Pechora Pipit *Anthus gustavi*

One migr at 06h45 on 31st.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Four on 29th.

Chinese Grosbeak *Eophona migratoria*

Singles were noted on two dates.

Meadow Bunting *Emberiza cioides*

Heard at Great Wall on 29th.

*****Yellow-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza aureola*

2-3 migr buntings were most likely this species.