

# Birding Yunnan, SW China: 24 Feb – 8 Mar 2013.

*An at-a-glance list of 328 species of birds & three species of mammals recorded.*

*By Jesper Hornskov @ \*\*\*\*this draft 12 Aug 2013\*\*\* 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 & mammals noted by A Bassett, D Heintz & myself during 12 days in Yunnan, China's SW-most and biologically most diverse province.

Arriving on time at Lijiang (via Guangzhou and Kunming, the provincial capital) in the afternoon of 24<sup>th</sup> we had to straighten out a luggage issue before proceeding into town so that day we only managed an hour in the local park before dark.

That apart, wishing to make absolutely the most of it, we could hardly have spent more time in the field. We did so under the expected magnificently blue skies (W Yunnan remained in the grip of a headline-making drought; for AB & DH this was a welcome change from a particularly dreary & interminable-seeming winter in Europe), covering Lijiang, Gaoligongshan, Tengchong, Yingjiang & Ruili before catching an evening flight back to Kunming on 8<sup>th</sup>, and departing China (via Shanghai) the following day.

The birds, the mammals, the butterflies, the plants, the scenery, a stimulating mix of local cultures (Yunnan is also China's ethnically most diverse province, and we found especially Lijiang, a World Heritage Site, but also Dali - where we stopped briefly to see the famous pagodas – interesting), wonderful food, comfortable accommodations & (not least) the companionship all came together to produce a trip the more memorable for the region being so desperately under-visited by birdwatchers.

Or in DH's words: "...Yunnan was more interesting than [our] trip to Sikkim, because we had more and better views [...] of heart-of-Asia birds with the odd local birds thrown in (say Yunnan Nuthatch). To me 6 fulvettas (all new for us), 5 sibilias, 4 parrotbills, 4 scimitar-babblers (including the two red-billed species), 3 shrike-babblers, 3 tesias, 3 new laughingthrushes (Red-tailed Laughingthrush is really a special bird!) is still incredible. And that was in 10 days only [...]. The potential is enormous. Then the infrastructure was better and the food and culture was an unexpected bonus (Lijiang, Dali...). All in all, Yunnan would make for an incredible first trip to the Himalayan hills (God knows how many phylloscopus we saw)!"

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Enquiries concerning future **Oriental Bird Club Fundraisers** - to Yunnan, following a more comprehensive itinerary than on the made-to-fit trip dealt with here, 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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition* (Dickinson 2003), in my opinion by far the most useful one-volume checklist to date.

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## **Species list:**

### **Common Hill Partridge** *Arborophila torqueola*

Ten bird-days. Noted on four dates in Gaoligongshan – all but two were heard-onlies.  
\*\*\*In addition, seven unidentified hill partridges were seen briefly...

### **Rufous-throated Hill Partridge** *Arborophila rufogularis*

Three near Ruili on 6<sup>th</sup> – two seen!

### **Mountain Bamboo Partridge** *Bambusicola fytchii*

Four calling at Ruili on 6<sup>th</sup> – we took up position and were in the end rewarded with brief ‘scope views...

### **Red Junglefowl** *Gallus gallus*

One heard at Ruili on 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **Grey Peacock Pheasant** *Polyplectron bicalcaratum*

One heard N of Ruili on 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

c200 near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*

c100 near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup> – down from Tibet for the winter.

### **Common Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

Four near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*

29+ bird-days. Noted on two dates at Lijiang & near Yingjiang.

### **Gadwall** *Anas strepera*

75+ near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

75+ near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Chinese Spotbill** *Anas zonorhyncha*  
9+ near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*  
c30 near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*  
Ten near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Teal** *Anas crecca*  
132+ bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Red-crested Pochard** *Netta rufina*  
300+ near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Pochard** *Aythya ferina*  
30+ near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca*  
c15 near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*  
60 near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*  
28 near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*  
86+ bird-days. Noted on five dates.

\*\*\*It was good to get views that allowed us to confirm that these birds had the white iris of ssp *poggei*, which also differs from the nominate in vocalizations...

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*  
10+ near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup> – at least one was in full breeding plumage.

**Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*  
25 near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Chinese Pond Heron** *Ardeola bacchus*  
Eight bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Eastern Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus coromandus*  
52 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*  
Three bird-days. Noted on two dates.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba*  
16 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Intermediate Egret** *Egretta intermedia*

Six bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

28 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Little Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax niger*

58 bird-days. Noted at Ruili on two dates.

**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

167+ bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

15 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Oriental Honey Buzzard** *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

Eight bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Black-shouldered Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*

Nine bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Crested Serpent Eagle** *Spilornis cheela*

One immature bird perched near Ruili on 7<sup>th</sup>, allowing prolonged 'scoped views!'

**Crested Goshawk** *Accipiter trivirgatus*

Three bird-days. Noted near Ruili on two dates.

**Besra** *Accipiter virgatus*

One in Gaoligongshan 'at sunrise' on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

Singles on two dates.

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo japonicus*

14 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

\*\*\*In the recommended field guide for trips in E China - Brazil (2009) – ssp *japonicus* is given full species status...

**Black Eagle** *Ictinaetus malayensis*

Four bird-days. Singles noted on four dates – one at Ruili on 8<sup>th</sup> was particularly memorable: 'hunting: cork-screw turns, floating without effort – a Bronzed Drongo briefly gave chase'

**Bonelli's Eagle** *Hieraaetus fasciatus*

Two adults circling together at Gaoligongshan on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Mountain Hawk Eagle** *Spizaetus nipalensis*

Singles on two dates at Gaoligongshan.

**White-breasted Waterhen** *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

One near Yingjiang on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

67 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Common Coot** *Fulica atra*

'Present' near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup> – on 23<sup>rd</sup> some 23,000+ birds were present (JH pers obs)...

**Common Crane** *Grus grus*

Ten near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

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

One near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Northern Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

142 near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**River Lapwing** *Vanellus duvaucelii*

Seven seen well on 4<sup>th</sup>!

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

23+ bird-days. Noted on two dates – 21+ along the river on 4<sup>th</sup>, with much displaying...

**Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

One at Ruili on 8<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*An additional ten snipe sp. in the same area on the same date...

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

Three bird-days. Noted on two dates.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

Three on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

One on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*

Three bird-days. Noted on two dates.

**Small Pratincole** *Glareola lactea*

20+ along the river on 4<sup>th</sup> – outstanding views: hawking over the river, landing, displaying... and even copulating!

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*

Three 2<sup>nd</sup> c-y *heinei* at Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*Cheng (1987) listed ssp. *kamtschatschensis* for Yunnan (without locality) though *heinei* is far more common generally (JH pers obs), and undoubtedly the one most likely to reach Yunnan.

**Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus cachinnans*

One adult near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus (fuscus) 'taimyrensis'*

One adult near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**'Mongolian Gull'** *Larus (cachinnans) mongolicus*  
One 2<sup>nd</sup> c-y at Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**\*\*\*\*"Large White-headed Gull"**

Two near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Black-headed Gull** *Larus ichthyaetus*

Six (three adults, two 2<sup>nd</sup> c-y & one 'immature') near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup> – great-looking birds...

**Brown-headed Gull** *Larus brunnicephalus*

One 2<sup>nd</sup> c-y near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

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

30 near Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**River Tern** *Sterna aurantia*

Repeated close-up views of three on 4<sup>th</sup>: TINGALING!

**Speckled Wood Pigeon** *Columba hodgsonii*

14+ bird-days. Noted at Gaoligongshan on three dates.

**Oriental Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia orientalis*

14 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Spotted Dove** *Streptopelia chinensis*

31 bird-days. Noted on six dates – memorable views on 8<sup>th</sup>, with several birds in full display mode near Ruili.

**Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps indica*

One near Ruili on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Mountain Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula badia*

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

**Large Hawk-Cuckoo** *Cuculus sparveroides*

24 bird-days. Noted on ten dates – frame-filling 'scope views as dusk approached at Tengchong on 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Banded Bay Cuckoo** *Cacomantis sonneratii*

6-7 bird-days. Noted near Ruili on three dates – can be tricky to see; on 7<sup>th</sup> one 'heard directly above us but...; later flew across & perched in the open: 'scoped!'

**Asian Emerald Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx maculates*

Singles near Ruili on both 5+8<sup>th</sup>.

**Green-billed Malkoha** *Rhopodytes tristis*

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

**Greater Coucal** *Centropus sinensis*

One heard at Ruili on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Lesser Coucal** *Centropus bengalensis*

Singles heard on two dates.

**Collared Scops Owl** *Otus lettia*

Undoubtedly the same individual heard at Gaoligongshan on both 1+2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Chinese Tawny Owl** *Strix nivicola*

Singles heard at Gaoligongshan on both 27<sup>th</sup> + 1<sup>st</sup>.

\*\*\*“The Indian taxa *biddulphi* and *nivicola* are usually considered races of Tawny, but differ markedly from each other in morphology and song, despite their close geographic approach in the W Himalayas; *nivicola* is thus afforded species status [...]”:Rasmussen & Anderton (2005).

**Collared Owlet** *Glaucidium brodiei*

12 bird-days. Heard on nine dates.

**Asian Barred Owlet** *Glaucidium cuculoides*

Most likely the same bird heard daily at Gaoligongshan.

**Grey Nightjar** *Caprimulgus jokata*

One at Tengchong on 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Asian Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus balasiensis*

16 bird-days. Noted near Ruili on three dates.

**Cook's Swift** *Apus cooki*

38 bird-days. Noted near Ruili on two dates.

\*\*\*Leader (2011) concluded that the *Apus pacificus* complex should be treated as four species, at least three of which occur in China/Tibet.

*Apus cooki* is ‘restricted to lowland [Burma], N Thailand, Vietnam & Guangxi’ breeding only in limestone caves (the only member of the complex to do so). It is ‘a short-distance migrant or near-resident’, with winter specimens from Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, N Shan States & Thailand.

Unsurprisingly (Leader, pers com 2010) *cooki* in addition occurs in SW Yunnan.

The rump patch is narrow, the upperparts and underparts are black (dark brown upper- and underparts in *pacificus*, or black on mantle only in *leuconyx* & *salimali*), underparts with broad, well-defined white fringes approaching those of Dark-rumped Swift *A. acuticauda*, off-white throat patch extending to upper breast, extensive green iridescence on upperparts, and contrasting black underwing coverts (no contrast in other taxa).

**House Swift** *Apus nipalensis*

17+ bird-days. Noted on six dates.

**White-throated Kingfisher** *Halcyon smyrnensis*

Two near Yingjiang on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

Three bird-days. Noted on two dates.

**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*

Seven bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Blue-bearded Bee-eater** *Nyctiornis athertoni*

Singles near Ruili on both 7+8<sup>th</sup>.

**Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

Three migr near Ruili on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Barbet** *Megalaima virens*

52 bird-days. Noted on ten dates.

**Golden-throated Barbet** *Megalaima franklinii*

48+ bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

**Blue-throated Barbet** *Megalaima asiatica*

40 bird-days. Noted near Ruili on three dates.

**Coppersmith Barbet** *Megalaima haemacephala*

Seven near Ruili on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Speckled Piculet** *Picumnus innominatus*

Ten bird-days. Noted on four dates – if we'd done a Bird of the Trip list this species would at the very least have made the shortlist: outstanding views both at Lijiang (where rarely recorded) & at Ruili!

**Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos canicapillus*

12 bird-days. This widespread species was noted on six dates.

**Stripe-breasted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos atratus*

Singles were seen on three dates.

**Crimson-breasted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos cathpharius*

One at Gaoligongshan on 2<sup>nd</sup> 'moved through after drumming short, fast burst'...

**Darjeeling Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos darjellensis*

Single males 'scoped at Gaoligongshan on both 27<sup>th</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

Singles daily at Tengchong.

**Lesser Yellownape** *Picus chlorolophus*

Singles near Ruili on three dates.

\*\*\*In addition, a heard-only Yellownape sp at Gaoligongshan on 27<sup>th</sup>...

**Greater Yellownape** *Picus flavinucha*

Most likely the same bird heard daily at Gaoligongshan.

**Grey-headed Woodpecker** *Picus canus*

Singles on three dates.

**Bay Woodpecker** *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*

13+ bird-days. Noted on seven dates – we did quite well actually seeing four of them...



**Long-tailed Broadbill** *Psarisomus dalhousiae*

Two on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Silver-breasted Broadbill** *Serilophus lunatus*

Six ('scope views of two!) vocal birds in bamboo near near Ruili on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Large Woodshrike** *Tephrodornis virgatus*

12 bird-days. Noted at Ruili on three dates.

**Large Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina macei*

Two at Tengchong on both 3+4<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*Considered uncommon by Cheng (1987), who listed the species as *C. novaehollandiae*.

**Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina melaschistos*

18-19 bird-days. Noted near Ruili on four dates.

**Rosy Minivet** *Pericrocotus roseus*

Three migr at Ruili on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Long-tailed Minivet** *Pericrocotus ethologus*

4+ at Lijiang on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Short-billed Minivet** *Pericrocotus brevirostris*

27 bird-days. Noted near Ruili on four dates, incl five migr on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Scarlet Minivet** *Pericrocotus speciosus*

115+ bird-days. Noted on six dates – main event 76 (of which 74 migr) near Ruili on 8<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\***Minivet sp**

69 bird-days, incl singles on three dates at Gaoligongshan (where we failed to clinch Grey-chinned Minivet *P. solaris*), and no fewer than 56 migr near Ruili on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike** *Hemipus picatus*

Seven bird-days. Noted near Ruili on two dates.

**Brown Shrike** *Lanius cristatus*

Singles at Tengchong (where not previously recorded) on 3<sup>rd</sup> & en route on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Burmese Shrike** *Lanius collurioides*

Four near Ruili on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Long-tailed Shrike** *Lanius schach*

36 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

**Grey-backed Shrike** *Lanius tephronotus*

Ten bird-days. Noted on five dates.

\*\*\***Long-tailed / Grey-backed Shrike**

Four en route on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Slender-billed Oriole** *Oriolus tenuirostris*  
5-6 daily at Tengchong.

**Maroon Oriole** *Oriolus traillii*  
53 bird-days. Noted on nine dates – main event 21 (incl 17 migr) near Ruili on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Black Drongo** *Dicrurus macrocercus*  
Three bird-days. Noted on just two dates.

**Ashy Drongo** *Dicrurus leucophaeus*  
53+ bird-days. Noted on eight dates – main event 14 migr near Ruili on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Bronzed Drongo** *Dicrurus aeneus*  
52 bird-days. Noted on six dates, mostly near Ruili.

**Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus remifer*  
Three bird-days. Noted near Ruili on two dates.

**White-throated Fantail** *Rhipidura albicollis*  
54 bird-days. Noted on 11 dates.

**Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus glandarius leucotis*  
Nine bird-days. Noted on three dates.  
\*\*\*Dickinson (2003) listed no fewer than 35 subspecies – we saw the spectacular, clown-faced ('dark eye-surround; dark chin; head otherwise largely white') *leucotis* W of the Salween but did not come across any *sinensis* at Lijiang.

**Red-billed Blue Magpie** *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*  
22 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

**Common Green Magpie** *Cissa chinensis*  
Six bird-days. Noted near Ruili on two dates.

**Grey Treepie** *Dendrocitta formosae*  
Nine bird-days. Noted on six dates.

**Eurasian Nutcracker** *Nucifraga caryocatactes*  
One heard at Lijiang on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**'Large-billed' Crow** *Corvus 'macrorhynchos'*  
9+ bird-days. Noted on five dates.  
\*\*\*Robson (2008) elevates *levaillantii* to full species status as Eastern Jungle Crow *Corvus levaillantii* but without including SW-most Yunnan in its range – as we did not record any at Lijiang probably all the ones we saw were *levaillantii*...

**Eastern Great Tit** *Parus minor*  
36 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.  
\*\*\*Cheng (1987) listed only *subtibetanus* – part of the *minor* group - for Yunnan.

**Green-backed Tit** *Parus monticolus*  
12 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Yellow-cheeked Tit** *Parus spilonotus*

41 bird-days. It was a real treat to see this charismatic species on nine dates.

**Yellow-browed Tit** *Sylviparus modestus*

Ten bird-days. Noted daily at Gaoligongshan.

**Grey-throated Sand Martin** *Riparia chinensis*

25 bird-days. Noted on three dates – close-up views near Yingjiang!

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

225+ bird-days. Noted on nine dates.

**Asian House Martin** *Delichon dasypus*

A flock of 220 near Ruili on 6<sup>th</sup>.

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

250+ near Ruili on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Striated Swallow** *Cecropis striolata*

Two near Ruili on both 5+8<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-throated Tit** *Aegithalos concinnus*

95+ bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

**Pere Bonvalot's Tit** *Aegithalos bonvaloti*

Six at Lijiang on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Oriental Skylark** *Alauda gulgula*

Six at Lijiang on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Striated Prinia** *Prinia crinigera*

Two near the Salween on 26<sup>th</sup> – both were singing, but only one was seen...

**Hill Prinia** *Prinia superciliaris*

30 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

\*\*\*Split from *P. atrogularis* of E Himalayas following Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) .

**Rufescent Prinia** *Prinia rufescens*

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

**Grey-breasted Prinia** *Prinia hodgsonii*

20 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Mountain Tailorbird** *Orthomus cucullatus*

26 bird-days. Noted near Ruili on three dates.

**Common Tailorbird** *Orthomus sutorius*

15 bird-days. Noted at Ruili on three dates.

**Crested Finchbill** *Spizixos canifrons*

c36 bird-days. This attractive species was noted on four dates.

**Striated Bulbul** *Pycnonotus striatus*  
45 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

**Black-crested Bulbul** *Pycnonotus flaviventris*  
Four bird-days. Noted near Ruili on three dates.

**Red-whiskered Bulbul** *Pycnonotus jocosus*  
20 bird-days. Noted near Ruili on two dates.

**Brown-breasted Bulbul** *Pycnonotus xanthorrhous*  
c94 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Red-vented Bulbul** *Pycnonotus cafer*  
105 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

**Sooty-headed Bulbul** *Pycnonotus aurigaster*  
Six at Dali on 26<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*An additional ten birds judged to be intergrade Red-vented x Sooty-headed (but no pure-bred Red-vented) were noted in the same area...

**Flavescent Bulbul** *Pycnonotus flavescens*  
19 bird-days. This subtly attractive forest edge species was noted near Ruili on three dates.

**White-throated Bulbul** *Criniger flaveolus*  
25 bird-days. Noted near Ruili on three dates.

**Mountain Bulbul** *Ixos mccllellandii*  
65 bird-days. Noted on nine dates.

**Ashy Bulbul** *Hemixos flava*  
33 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Black Bulbul** *Hypsietes leucocephalus*  
159+ bird-days. Noted on nine dates – three races together at Tengchong!  
\*\*\*What with three morphs – in addition to all-black(ish) birds, white-breasted ssp *leucothorax* and white-headed birds (sspp *leucocephalus* & *stresemanni*) were seen – this attractive species is a strong 'presence' almost throughout the region covered by our trip.

**Striated Warbler** *Megalurus palustris*  
Three bird-days. Noted on two dates.

**Chestnut-headed Tesia** *Oligura castaneocoronata*  
Six bird-days. Noted on four dates – one seen on 1<sup>st</sup>: WOW!  
\*\*\*This tiny gem of a bird embodies the joys and frustrations of birdwatching near the Burma border: fairly common, reasonably widespread? Yes, evidently... Easy to see? NO!!

**Slaty-bellied Tesia** *Tesia olivea*  
Nine bird-days. Note on four dates – in the end we had to resort to taping to see one properly...

**Grey-bellied Tesia** *Tesia cyaniventer*

Seven bird-days. Noted at Ruili on three dates – on 5<sup>th</sup> ‘one seen & heard singing’.

**Pale-footed Bush Warbler** *Cettia pallidipes*

Five bird-days. Noted on two dates – outstanding views near Ruili on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler** *Cettia fortipes*

Nine bird-days. Noted on three dates – one seen well (if not for long!) at Tengchong on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Dusky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

Six bird-days. Noted near Ruili on two dates - all those seen properly were ssp *fuscatus*.

\*\*\*Martens (2008) unconvincingly aligns ssp *weigoldicus* with Smoky Warbler *P. fuligiventer*  
[http://globiz.sachsen.de/snsd/publikationen/vertebrate-zoology/vz58-2/06\\_Martens.pdf](http://globiz.sachsen.de/snsd/publikationen/vertebrate-zoology/vz58-2/06_Martens.pdf)

**‘Chinese’ Tickell’s Warbler** *Phylloscopus occisinensis*

One seen well at Tengchong on 3<sup>rd</sup>.

\*\*\*Martens (2008) elevates part of Tickell’s Leaf Warbler to full species status as *P. occisinensis*  
[http://globiz.sachsen.de/snsd/publikationen/vertebrate-zoology/vz58-2/06\\_Martens.pdf](http://globiz.sachsen.de/snsd/publikationen/vertebrate-zoology/vz58-2/06_Martens.pdf)

**Buff-throated Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus subaffinis*

One ‘scoped singing at Lijiang on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellow-streaked Warbler** *Phylloscopus arandii*

Singles on five dates.

**Buff-barred Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus pulcher*

85 bird-days. Noted on eight dates – main event no fewer than 33 at Tengchong on 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Ashy-throated Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus maculipennis*

17 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Chinese Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus yunnanensis*

Six bird-days. Noted near Ruili on two dates.

\*\*\*The “newly described” “*Phylloscopus sichuanensis*” in fact dates back to 1922: Dickinson (2003). Cheng (1987) listed *P. yunnanensis* as a synonym of *chloronotus*.

\*\*\*It remains to be seen if the German name will be changed from Alstromlaubsanger to Latouche-laubsanger? Martens *et al.* 2004 (*vide* Rheindt 2006) apparently proposed to change the now well-established English name for this species to ‘La Touche’s Leaf Warbler’...

**Pallas’ Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus*

20 bird-days. Noted on six dates – main event ten at Tengchong on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**‘Eastern’ Lemon-rumped Warbler** *Phylloscopus forresti*

56 bird-days. Noted on 12 dates.

\*\*\*Martens *et al.* 2004 (*vide* Rheindt 2006) elevated *forresti*, considered a synonym of *chloronotus* by Cheng (1987), to full species status, splitting it from *chloronotus* (of Nepal) which, with *simlaensis*, becomes Western Lemon-rumped Warbler. The two differ “dramatically in song and mitochondrial DNA (4.2% cytochrome-b divergence)”: Rheindt (2006).

\*\*\*Given that the type locality for *forresti* is Lijiang, in Yunnan (Cheng 1987), it is not obvious that “Sichuan Leaf Warbler” is preferable to “Eastern Lemon-rumped Warbler”. “Presumably the hitherto unknown border between both species lies somewhere in Yunnan, Burma or north-eastern India.”: Rheindt (2006). *Ahem?*

**Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*

65 bird-days. Noted on eight dates – not many were seen well, but it was nice to become thoroughly familiar with the distinctive call of this species.

**Hume’s Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus humei mandelli*

20 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

\*\*\*Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) treats both ssp as full species, noting that “although the call of *mandellii* is markedly different from [nominat] *humei*, the whistled songs of both taxa are variable and often inseparable. While *mandellii* is genetically closer to *humei* than to *inornatus*, it is long-separated from either according to mtDNA (Irwin *et al.* 2001); its status as a full species thus remains equivocal.”

**Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

Two near Ruili on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Blyth’s Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus reguloides*

29 bird-days. Noted on five dates, mostly near Ruili.

**White-tailed Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus davisoni*

116 bird-days. Noted on ten dates.

\*\*\*The taxon *davisoni* of N+W+C Yunnan is best considered a monotypic species despite only very slight morphological differences & extremely similar songs and calls, while the taxa *disturbans* (S Sichuan - SE Yunnan), *klossi* & *ogilviegranti* (Fujian) are better treated as one species: Olsson *et al.* in press. Williamson (1967) noted that “Burmese *davisoni* have a greyish-olive cast on the mantle so that is less pure than in other races”.

**Yellow-vented Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus cantator*

Five near Ruili on 5<sup>th</sup> – excellent views of a couple of them, singing their distinctive song.

\*\*\*Cheng (1987) treated *ricketti* & “*goodsoni*” as conspecific with *P. cantator*, but did not list *P. cantator sensu stricto* for China. The first Chinese records of this species were from Xishuangbanna, S Yunnan, (P. Kennerley pers. com.) and it was included for China by MacKinnon *et al.* (2000).

**Grey-crowned Warbler** *Seicercus tephrocephalus*

Five bird-days. Noted near Ruili on two dates.

**Bianchi’s Warbler** *Seicercus valentini*

14 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

**Grey-cheeked Warbler** *Seicercus poliogenys*

25 bird-days. This unobtrusive species was noted on no fewer than five dates.

**Chestnut-crowned Warbler** *Seicercus castaniceps*

16 bird-days. This extremely pretty species was noted on seven dates.

**Black-faced Warbler** *Abroscopus schisticeps*

33 bird-days. Noted daily at Gaoligongshan – main event 19 on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellow-bellied Warbler** *Abroscopus superciliaris*  
11 bird-days. Noted near Ruili on three dates.

**Puff-throated Babbler** *Pellorneum ruficeps*  
Ten bird-days. Noted at Ruili on two dates.

**Spot-breasted Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus erythrocnemis*  
36+ bird-days. Noted on five dates.

\*\*\*ssp *odicus* (of NE and E Burma, N Indochina, S Yunnan and Guizhou (except N)), is now by some authors<sup>^</sup> included in a 'new' species, *P. gravivox*<sup>^^</sup>, comprising also the taxa *gravivox* (of S Gansu, S Shaanxi, S Shanxi, NW Henan, and N Sichuan), *cowensae* (of C and E Sichuan, N Guizhou, and W Hubei), *dedekensi* of '(N)E Xizang', W Sichuan, and NW Yunnan) & *decarlei* (of 'E Xizang', SW Sichuan, and NW Yunnan), in a rearrangement which leaves *mccllellandi* (of E Bhutan, NE India, E Bangladesh & W Burma) as a monotypic, extralimital species under the English name 'Spot-breasted Scimitar Babbler' (despite its having the least spotted breast of the lot!), *swinhoei* & *abbreviatus* as Grey-sided Scimitar Babbler, endemic to S & SE China, and *erythrocnemis* as a monotypic Taiwan endemic under the English name 'Black-necklaced Scimitar Babbler'.

In the absence of DNA analysis and a thorough study of the notoriously varied vocalizations of these birds, such provisional rearrangement seems fairly pointless...

\*\*\*<sup>^</sup> incl Collar & Robson in HBW vol 12, following Collar (2006) who launched this 'new' arrangement, which clearly rests on uncertain foundations and is in need of considerable fortification (which is not supplied by morphometric analysis, as this shows as much variation within the new species as between them, notably a remarkably long tail in *dedekensi* [sic]...)' ...

\*\*\*<sup>^^</sup> included as Black-streaked Scimitar-Babbler by Robson (2008)

**Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*

61+ bird-days. Noted on 11 dates, with good views on a number of occasions – ssp *albipectus* @ Ruili; ssp *similis* elsewhere.

\*\*\*ssp. *albipectus* was included with **White-browed Scimitar Babbler** *P. schisticeps* by King *et al.* (1975) but with *P. ruficollis* by Robson (2000), who described a song not compatible with *albipectus*' for *P. schisticeps*.

**Red-billed Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus ochraceiceps*  
Nine bird-days. Noted near Ruili on three dates.

**Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler** *Pomatorhinus ferruginosus*  
Two seen well near Ruili on 6<sup>th</sup>, coming in to feed in a flowering bush...

**Streaked Wren-Babbler** *Napothera brevicaudata*  
Five bird-days. Seen near Ruili on two dates – main event three together, showing well, on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Scaly-breasted Wren-Babbler** *Pnoepyga albiventer*  
One heard at Gaoligongshan on 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Pygmy Wren-Babbler** *Pnoepyga pusilla*  
One seen well near Ruili on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Spotted Wren-Babbler** *Spelaeornis formosus*

One at Gaoligongshan on 1<sup>st</sup> – ‘taped; seen well by AB & DH. Kept singing after moving up along track away from gully where it started singing unprompted. Buried in fern!’

**Long-tailed Wren-Babbler** *Spelaeornis reptatus*

Seven bird-days. Heard-onlies noted on three dates.

**Cachar Wedge-billed Babbler** *Sphenocichla roberti*

On 27<sup>th</sup>, two ‘sang back to tape & came in, giving mostly naked-eye views’...

\*\*\*‘Usually considered wren-babblers, these enigmatic babblers are larger, with strange, deep-based, chisel-like bills and broad rounded tails. Little known in life, they are normally encountered in groups in trees, and perform musical whistled duets. [... *roberti* is] strikingly different from *S. humei* in many aspects of plumage, without any evidence of intergradation despite close geographic approach. Doubtless better considered a separate species on basis of morphology; comparative study of vocalisations desirable when recordings of *roberti* become available.’: Rasmussen & Anderton (2005).

**Rufous-capped Babbler** *Stachyris ruficeps*

26 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

**Golden Babbler** *Stachyris chrysaea*

Nine bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Grey-throated Babbler** *Stachyris nigriceps*

12 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Chinese Babax** *Babax lanceolatus*

At Tengchong Tea Plantation two heard on 3<sup>rd</sup> & one on 4<sup>th</sup> ‘sitting out for a split second’.

**Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush** *Garrulax monileger*

One heard singing at Ruili on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush** *Garrulax pectoralis*

Three bird-days. Heard near Ruili on two dates.

**Moustached Laughingthrush** *Garrulax cineraceus*

Two showed well at Tengchong on 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Grey-sided Laughingthrush** *Garrulax caerulatus latifrons*

10+ at Gaoligongshan on 1<sup>st</sup>.

\*\*\*Collar & Robson (HBW vol 12, pp231-232) treats *berthemeyi* as a monotypic species, ‘Chestnut-winged Laughingthrush’, endemic to mainland China, *poecilorhyncus* as a monotypic species, ‘Rusty Laughingthrush’, endemic to Taiwan, and *caerulatus*, *subcaerulatus*, *livingstoni*, *latifrons* (of ‘extreme NE [Burma] and adjacent [...] NW Yunnan’) and *kaurensis* (of E [Burma] and adjacent W Yunnan) as ‘Grey-sided Laughingthrush’.

**Rufous-necked Laughingthrush** *Garrulax ruficollis*

36+ bird-days. Noted near Ruili on three dates – main event a flock of c15 on 5<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*In November 2010 two heard-onlies was the best we could manage, and not for lack of trying  
- ‘this restricted-range species was formerly easy to see close to Ruili’ I wrote in the trip list,



*'but the clearing of some hillsides, connected to intensification of cash-crop agriculture, means a more targeted effort and/or more time (or just better luck!) is now required...'* One of the rewards for returning to an area again and again is that you get to appreciate just how different one year can be from another.

**Hwamei** *Garrulax canorus*

Three bird-days. Heard on two dates at Tengchong but unfortunately proved uncooperative...

**White-browed Laughingthrush** *Garrulax sannio*

78+ bird-days. Noted on eight dates – we enjoyed superb views on several occasions...

**Blue-winged Laughingthrush** *Garrulax squamatus*

Two heard near Ruili on 6<sup>th</sup> – sang back to the tape but didn't emerge from dense vegetation.

**Scaly Laughingthrush** *Garrulax subunicolor*

Two seen brief at Gaoligongshan on 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Elliot's Laughingthrush** *Garrulax elliotii*

Five at Lijiang on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush** *Garrulax erythrocephalus*

14 bird-days. Noted on two dates – main event 12 on 1<sup>st</sup>, incl several seen well as they fed up in flowering tree.

\*\*\*Collar & Robson (HBW vol 12, p260), following on from Collar (2006), subjects this well-known 'species' to what amounts to a taxonomic ambush that appears to have left their HBW map-maker baffled... of relevance from a Yunnan / China perspective are three 'species':

\*\*\*Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron erythrocephalum*, comprising *erythrocephalum*, *kali* & *nigrimentum*, of which only the latter occurs in 'China' (SE Xizang).

It is perhaps symptomatic that Collar (2006) grouped *woodi* with these three!

*nigrimentum* 'has crown dark grey with broad black streaks, chestnut only on nape, and is much richer rufous [than extralimital *kali*] throughout underparts and on back and scapulars'.

\*\*\*Assam Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron chrysopterum*, comprising *chrysopterum*, *godwini*, *erythrolaemum*, *woodi* (which occurs in NW & W Yunnan) & *ailaoshanense* (of Ailao Shan, 'C Yunnan' – interestingly, in the treatment of *kinneari* 'Long-tailed Wren Babbler' Ailao Shan is considered to be in SE Yunnan).

The species has a spotted back (unlike *T. melanostigma*), with the spotting extending to lower back (unlike *T. erythrocephalum*), has spotting below arranged in wedge-shapes (smooth-curving scales in *T. melanostigma*), and lacks the rufous patch at base of secondaries (unlike *T. melanostigma*) & (unlike *T. melanostigma*) has no distinct black throat.

*ailaoshanense* differs from *woodi* in having 'crown brighter and with less black on forehead, spotting above dark brown and more arrow-shaped on yellowish olive-brown base'.

\*\*\*Silver-eared Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron melanostigma*, comprising *melanostigma* (NE Burma birds are thought to have been assigned to this form in error), *ramsayi*, *schistaceum*, *subconnectens* & *connectens* (of C & SE Yunnan, NE & C Laos, and N Tonkin).

Hybrid(s?) between the last and *ailaoshanense* have been reported 'calling into question the recent taxonomic split [*sic* - are there any splits except taxonomic ones?] of

*T. erythrocephalum*'.

The species differs from *T. erythrocephalum* & *T. chrysopterum* 'in unspotted back, dark primary coverts, more extensive silvery edges on ear-coverts, dark-streaked grey supercilium spreading to upper neck side, black chin and malar area, and olive tinged underparts' – *connectens* 'has scaly effect below even more pronounced [than in *subconnectens*], [and]

has yellowish-olive wing fringing (including primary coverts [despite the statement above that dark primary coverts is a feature which distinguishes this species from *T. erythrocephalum* & *T. chrysopteron*]).

\*\*\*Extralimital are Malayan Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron peninsulae* & Golden-winged Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron ngoclinense*.

**Red-tailed Laughingthrush** *Garrulax milnei*

14+ bird-days. Noted on four dates – satisfying views were had both at Gaoligongshan ('long session w/ 6+ on 28<sup>th</sup> & two feeding up in flowers in the same spot the following day') & near Ruili.

**Red-faced Liocichla** *Liocichla (phoenicea) ripponi*

15 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

\*\*\*^HBW vol 12 (p265) treats *riponi* (with *wellsi*, of SE Yunnan to NE Guangxi, N Laos & N Tonkin) as Scarlet-faced Liocichla, ranging S to NW-most Thailand. It differs from Crimson-faced Liocichla *L. phoenicea* (with which *bakeri* is placed – this taxon's range is stated to include W & S parts of N Burma and adjacent W Yunnan, apparently an error; birds from Gongshan are presumed to be nominate *phoenicea*) in 'having crimson of face replaced by much brighter scarlet extending clearly over eye, onto lores and over malar area to chin, [having] black lateral crown stripe vestigial, crown grayer, underparts paler, [and] undertail browner'.

**Silver-eared Mesia** *Leiothrix argenteauris*

107+ bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Red-billed Leiothrix** *Leiothrix lutea*

22+ bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Black-headed Shrike-Babbler** *Pteruthius rufiventer*

Very likely the same pair at Gaoligongshan noted on both 28<sup>th</sup> ('male seen killing a caterpillar in the sun; female coming in a while after male') & 1<sup>st</sup>: WOW! views...

**White-browed Shrike-Babbler** *Pteruthius flaviscapis*

61 bird-days. Noted on ten dates.

\*\*\*HBW vol 12 (p285) includes only *ricketti* for Yunnan (*validirostris* being the only other 'Chinese' race, listed for 'SE Xizang'). Zheng *et al.* (2005) listed *validirostris* also for NW Yunnan, and recognizes *lingshuiensis* for Hainan (synonymized with *ricketti* by HBW) and *yunnanensis* (which gets no mention at all in HBW) for SE Yunnan & W Guangxi.

\*\*\*In *validirostris* the male has 'tertials all dark chestnut and pinkish-brown tinge on lower flanks[...], throat, submoustachial area and underparts grayish white' while in *ricketti* the male has 'ear-coverts slate-grey [not black], shading to smoky-grey throat and breast, [...] tertials chestnut with yellow on bases and outer web, and with black tips'.

**Black-eared Shrike-Babbler** *Pteruthius melanotis*

Five bird-days. Noted on three dates – seen well!

**White-hooded Babbler** *Gampsorhynchus rufulus*

Great views of five in bamboo near Ruili on 5<sup>th</sup> – four were white-headed & one rufous-headed...

\*\*\*^HBW vol 12 (p212) splits *torquatus* (with *luciae* & *saturator*) as Collared Babbler *G. torquatus*, leaving *rufulus* as a monotypic species ranging into W Yunnan. Zheng *et al.*

(2005) listed *torquatus* for S & SW Yunnan - '*torquatus* [...] has very different vocalizations and several morphological distinctions. At Namdapha (SE Arunachal), *G. rufulus* did not respond to playback of *torquatus* tapes (CR)'. Apparently (C Robson verbally: Collar (2006)) 'the vocalizations are constant within these two groupings and entirely different from each other'.

**Rusty-fronted Barwing** *Actinodura egertoni*

70 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

**Blue-winged Minla** *Minla cyanouroptera*

42+ bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

**Chestnut-tailed Minla** *Minla strigula*

70 bird-days. Noted on five dates at Lijiang & Gaoligongshan.

**Red-tailed Minla** *Minla ignotinta*

36 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

**Golden-breasted Fulvetta** *Alcippe chrysotis*

Two w/ a flock of Black-throated Parrotbills on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellow-throated Fulvetta** *Alcippe cinerea*

8+ bird-days. Noted in Gaoligongshan on two dates.

**Rufous-winged Fulvetta** *Alcippe castaneiceps*

6+ bird-days. Noted on just two dates...

**Spectacled Fulvetta** *Alcippe ruficapilla*

Nine at Lijiang on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Manipur Fulvetta** *Alcippe manipurensis*

Three at Gaoligongshan on 1<sup>st</sup>.

\*\*\*Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) splits *manipurensis* and *tonkinensis* as Manipur Fulvetta *A. manipurensis*. The diminished *A. cinereiceps* is a Mainland China endemic with a range encompassing Fujian & N Guangdong (ssp *guttaticollis*), C Hubei to Hunan (ssp *fucata*), W Hubei to SW Sichuan & Guizhou (ssp *cinereiceps*), and Gansu, S Shaanxi & NE Qinghai [?] (ssp *fessa*) (Dickinson 2003).

\*\*\*Collar (2006) asserts that '*A. manipurensis* [which he upholds by "[taking] on trust" from Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) vocal evidence to shore up morphological differences!] takes with the English name Streak-throated Fulvetta, with Grey-hooded Fulvetta for the diminished *Alcippe cinereiceps*'. That's very helpful, Nigel...

**Rusty-capped Fulvetta** *Alcippe dubia*

59 bird-days. Noted on nine dates – main event 17 near Ruili on 6<sup>th</sup>, incl one carrying nest material.

**'Western' Grey-cheeked Fulvetta** *Alcippe fratercula*

280+ bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

\*\*\*Zou *et al.* (2007) discovered that ssp *schaefferi* (of northern Vietnam, SE Yunnan, Guizhou & Guangxi) & *davidi* (of 'Gansu, Shannxi [sic], Sichuan, Guizhou, Hunan, Fujian [error?: if correct this is an isolated population; Fujian is listed also for *hueti*] & NE Yunnan),

probably, based on range, with *yunnanensis* (which was excluded from the study as no DNA sample was handy; this taxon was listed for Dali by Cheng (1987) and is probably the one occurring at Kunming – from where no taxa was listed by Cheng (1987)) are better considered one species (morphologically they differ in having a brown, not grey, head, and they lack the prominent black superciliary line found in ‘the peripheral taxa’), *fratercula* (E & SE Burma, N & C Laos, N Thailand & SW Yunnan) another, *annamensis* (previously considered to belong with Mountain Fulvetta *Alcippe paracensis*) a third, and *morrisonia* (Taiwan), *hueti* (of SE China, ‘incl Guangxi, Anhui, Jiangxi, Zhejiang, Fujian & Guangdong’) & *rufescentior* (of Hainan) a fourth. The authors concede that a case can be made to consider *morrisonia* a full species: it is c5% diverged from both *hueti* & *rufescentior*.

**Nepal Fulvetta** *Alcippe nipalensis*

Six at Ruili on 7<sup>th</sup> - ‘glimpses only; song & call heard’...

**Rufous-backed Sibia** *Heterophasia annectans*

13 bird-days. Noted near Ruili on four dates.

**Grey Sibia** *Heterophasia gracilis*

19 bird-days. Noted near Ruili on three dates.

**Black-headed Sibia** *Heterophasia desgodinsi*

27 bird-days. Noted on six dates - superb views of this species were had near Tengchong, where it is a recent colonist.

**Beautiful Sibia** *Heterophasia pulchella*

68 bird-days. Noted at Gaoligongshan on four dates.

**Long-tailed Sibia** *Heterophasia picaoides*

37+ bird-days. Noted near Ruili on three dates.

\*\*\*Considered very rare by Cheng (1987), who listed it only for Yingjiang & SE Yunnan.

**Striated Yuhina** *Yuhina castaniceps*

59 bird-days. Noted near Ruili on three dates.

**Whiskered Yuhina** *Yuhina flavicollis*

104+ bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

**Rufous-vented Yuhina** *Yuhina occipitalis*

27+ bird-days Noted on four dates.

\*\*\*Considered a resident by e.g. Robson (2008) this species is in fact a genuine migrant: at Gaoligongshan up to 286 per morning have been recorded passing N in early April (JH pers obs).

**White-bellied Yuhina** *Erpornis zantholeuca*

13+ bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Brown-winged Parrotbill** *Paradoxornis brunneus*

35+ bird-days. Noted at Tengchong on 3+4<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*Few birdwatchers visit the range of this subtle beauty.

**Black-throated Parrotbill** *Paradoxornis nipalensis*<sup>^</sup>

20+ in bamboo at Gaoligongshan on 27<sup>th</sup>.  
\*\*\*^='Grey-breasted Parrotbill *Suthora poliotis*' – see Penhallurick & Robson (2009).

**Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbill** *Paradoxornis atrosuperciliaris*

Five bird-days. Noted near Ruili on two dates.

**Grey-headed Parrotbill** *Paradoxornis gularis*

Three seen well 'at the last moment' near Ruili on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Chestnut-flanked White-eye** *Zosterops erythropleurus*

c41 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Japanese White-eye** *Zosterops japonicus*

c104 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

**Oriental White-eye** *Zosterops palpebrosus*

Four near the Salween on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

Eight at Lijiang on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Northern Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Singles at Lijiang on two dates.

**Naga Nuthatch** *Sitta nagaensis*

56 bird-days. Noted on nine dates.

**White-tailed Nuthatch** *Sitta himalayensis*

Three bird-days. Noted in Gaoligongshan on two dates – it was a real pleasure to get a long look at two on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Yunnan Nuthatch** *Sitta yunnanensis*

Three at Lijiang on 25<sup>th</sup> – one, in particular, was very cooperative: nice bird!

**Velvet-fronted Nuthatch** *Sitta frontalis*

17 bird-days. Noted near Ruili on four dates.

**Bar-tailed Treecreeper** *Certhia himalayana*

Nine bird-days. Noted on three dates – one 'scoped as it was singing strongly on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Hume's Treecreeper** *Certhia manipurensis*<sup>^</sup>

Nine bird-days. Noted on five dates – main event four at Gaoligongshan on 28<sup>th</sup>, of which two showed well.

\*\*\**discolor* & *manipurensis* highly divergent genetically and vocally (see Collar & Pilgrim 2007); the former becomes a monotypic species whose range includes 'S Xizang' (Zheng *et al.* 2005) while the latter (whose range includes W Yunnan: Zheng *et al.* 2005) groups with extralimital *shanensis* & *meridionalis*.

**Crested Myna** *Acridotheres cristellatus*

Two en route on 4<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*Its sought-after congener, the restricted-range Collared Myna *A. albocinctus* eluded us – late

winter / early spring is not the best time of the year to look for it...

**Chestnut-tailed Starling** *Sturnus malabaricus*

41+ bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Blue Whistling Thrush** *Myophonus caeruleus*

Eight bird-days. Noted near Ruili on three dates – main event five on 5<sup>th</sup>, of which one ‘eventually up in fruiting tree above track’.

**Long-tailed Thrush** *Zoothera dixonii*

12 bird-days. Noted on four dates – no fewer than 11 different individuals, incl several cooperative ones!

**White’s Thrush** *Zoothera aurea*

A singleton seen both on 3+4<sup>th</sup> - on last day unobscured ‘scope views at <20m: ‘better than even a Lars Jonsson painting’!

**Dark-sided Thrush** *Zoothera marginata*

Two seen well near Ruili on 5<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*We made a point of eliminating Long-billed Thrush *Zoothera monticola*, 1<sup>st</sup> recorded for China at Ruili in early Dec 2006 (B Andersson pers com), and possibly overlooked as it is not included in the so-called ‘field guide’ (MacKinnon, J., Phillipps, K. & He Fenqi (2000) *A Field Guide to the Birds of China*. Henan Jiaoyu Chubanshe [in Chinese]).’

**Black-breasted Thrush** *Turdus dissimilis*

88+ bird-days. This sought-after species was noted on no fewer than nine dates – main event 35+ at Tengchong on 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Grey-winged Blackbird** *Turdus boulboul*

Singletons were seen well on two dates.

**Chinese Blackbird** *Turdus mandarinus*

An adult male seen well at Lijiang on 25<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*The species has been expanding its range N-wards in China generally, so it was not a major surprise to find one at Lijiang...

**Eyebrowed Thrush** *Turdus obscurus*

Two near Ruili on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Siberian Rubythroat** *Luscinia calliope*

One near Ruili on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**White-browed Bush Robin** *Tarsiger indica*

A female-type bird at Gaoligongshan on 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Himalayan Red-flanked Bluetail** *Tarsiger rufilatus*

Six bird-days. Noted on four dates – three adult males: TINGALING!

\*\*\*“Sino-Himalayan *rufilatus* and N Asian *cyanurus* are widely disjunct in breeding ranges.

Consistent differences in morphology and song-types over wide areas indicate they are better treated as separate species”: Rasmussen & Anderton (2005).

\*\*\*An additional five unidentified Bluetails were seen.

**Northern Red-flanked Bluetail** *Tarsiger cyanurus*

Five bird-days. Noted at Gaoligongshan on three dates – one adult male ‘scoped on 28<sup>th</sup>!  
\*\*\*apparently (L Svensson pers com) breeding birds in NE Qinghai – with a white brow in adult males – are *albicoeruleus*, a taxon hitherto considered of doubtful validity but with a distinct song: just how they are separated from *cyanurus* except by song is not clear, but it seems reasonable to assume that the further W you get the more likely it is that ‘white-browed’ Bluetails are this taxon rather than Siberian *cyanurus*...

**Golden Bush Robin** *Tarsiger chrysaea*

One adult male flushed at Tengchong on 4<sup>th</sup> – ‘gone in a flash, but what a flash!’

**Oriental Magpie-Robin** *Copsychus saularis*

Seven bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Hodgson’s Redstart** *Phoenicurus hodgsoni*

One male showed well at Lijiang on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Daurian Redstart** *Phoenicurus aureus*

Single females were seen on two dates.

**Blue-fronted Redstart** *Phoenicurus frontalis*

24 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

**Plumbeous Redstart** *Rhyacornis fuliginosa*

11 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**River Chat** *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*

Four bird-days. Noted on three dates - ‘one feeding in spots of sunlight near Ruili on 5<sup>th</sup>: views that made a trip highlight for DH!...

**Black-backed Forktail** *Enicurus immaculatus*

Four near Ruili on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Slaty-backed Forktail** *Enicurus schistaceus*

Eight bird-days. Noted near Ruili on two dates.

**White-crowned Forktail** *Enicurus leschenaulti*

One seen well near Ruili on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Spotted Forktail** *Enicurus maculatus*

Three bird-days. Noted on two dates.

\*\*\*Although sorely tempted to visit ‘a usually reliable site’ for the Ultra Cute Little Forktail *E. scouleri* we opted to instead spend our precious time trying to track down birds that would be new for AB & DH...

**‘Siberian’ Common Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus*<sup>^</sup>

11 bird-days. Noted on two dates.

\*\*\*<sup>^</sup>sspp *maurus*, *przewalskii* & *stejnegeri* occur in China / Tibet. Dickinson (2003): “proposed splits of this complex species seem unsatisfactory if only in how the forms are ascribed to species”, and (still) NOT elevated to full species status by e.g. Svensson *et al.* (2009), who

treated 'Eastern Stonechat' as a subspecies group under 'Common Stonechat' and dealt with it in a separate account only 'for practical reasons'.

**Pied Bushchat** *Saxicola caprata*

15 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Grey Bushchat** *Saxicola ferreus*

17 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

**Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush** *Monticola rufiventris*

Two on 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Rufous-gorgetted Flycatcher** *Ficedula strophciata*

Ten bird-days. Noted on six dates.

**White-gorgetted Flycatcher** *Ficedula monileger*

Five bird-days. This skulking species was noted on four dates – nice views of one near Ruili on 6<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*Dickinson (2003) omitted W Yunnan from the range of this hard-to-find species which was listed as accidental in China by Cheng (1987), with the sole record (a male collected at Nankang River, SW Yunnan, in December) cited also by Yan *et al.* (1995).

**Snowy-browed Flycatcher** *Ficedula hyperythra*

One male near Ruili on 6<sup>th</sup> – 'came closer in response to recording: showed very well!'

**Little Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula westermanni*

26 bird-days. Noted on five dates – main event 15 near Ruili on 7<sup>th</sup>!

**Slaty-blue Flycatcher** *Ficedula tricolor*

One male near Ruili on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Asian Verditer Flycatcher** *Eumyias thalassinus*

Seven bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Pale Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis unicolor*

Seven bird-days. Heard-onlies at Ruili on two dates.

**Hill Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis banyumas*

15 bird-days. Noted on four dates – main event ten near Ruili on 7<sup>th</sup>: nice views of a couple of males...

\*\*\*Like most of its congeners a retiring species but (unlike some of its congeners) so common that sooner or later one'll get superb views: males are real gems and the source of much highly accomplished singing.

**Large Niltava** *Niltava grandis*

42 bird-days. Noted on nine dates – with a bit of patience it proved quite easy to get 'scope views of a couple of males!

**Small Niltava** *Niltava macgregoriae*

Nine bird-days. Noted on four dates.



**Grey-headed Flycatcher** *Culicicapa ceylonensis*  
69 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

**Yellow-bellied Fantail** *Chelidorhynch hypoxantha*  
27 bird-days. Noted on nine dates.

**Orange-bellied Leafbird** *Chloropsis hardwickii*  
27 bird-days. Noted near Ruili on four dates.

**Yellow-vented Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum chrysorrheum*  
Two near Ruili on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Buff-bellied (= Fire-breasted) Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum ignipectum*  
33 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

**Purple Sunbird** *Cinnyris asiaticus*  
One male near Ruili on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Mrs. Gould's Sunbird** *Aethopyga gouldiae*  
55 bird-days. Noted on eight dates – two males up in a pink-flowering tree made an strong impression on 27<sup>th</sup>...

**Green-tailed Sunbird** *Aethopyga nipalensis*  
16 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Black-throated Sunbird** *Aethopyga saturata*  
18 bird-days. Noted near Ruili on four dates – nice looks at a male, eventually...

**Crimson Sunbird** *Aethopyga siparaja*  
One male near Ruili on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Fire-tailed Sunbird** *Aethopyga ignicauda*  
20 bird-days. Noted on five dates – full-blown adult males proved in short supply...

**Streaked Spiderhunter** *Arachnothera magna*  
25 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

**Russet Sparrow** *Passer rutilans*  
21+ bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*  
Not systematically recorded – seen on several dates.

**White-rumped Munia** *Lonchura striata*  
Four near Ruili on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Scaly-breasted Munia** *Lonchura punctulata*  
Nine bird-days. Noted on two dates.

**Maroon-backed Accentor** *Prunella immaculata*  
One at Lijiang on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Eastern Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla tschutschensis*

Five along the river on 4<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*Alstrom & Mild (2003) conclude that “[...] the Yellow Wagtail complex is probably most appropriately classified as two species also under the BSC” (p34). Retained in *M. flava* are *flavissima*, *flava*, *beema*, *thunbergi* (incl. *plexa*), *iberiae*, *cinereocapilla*, *pygmaea*, *feldegg*, *lutea* & *leucocephala*. This treatment was adopted by Rasmussen & Anderton (2005).

**Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola*

Four – incl an imm male seen well! – on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

Four bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba alboides* & *M. a. leucopsis*

71 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

\*\*\*Alstrom & Mild (2003) concludes that various factors “suggest that the White Wagtail is best treated as a single species under the BSC”.

**Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni*

54 bird-days. Noted on nine dates.

**Rosy Pipit** *Anthus roseus*

17 en route on 4<sup>th</sup> – great views of a couple of them!

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

70+ bird-days. Noted on six dates.

**Tibetan Siskin** *Serinus thibetanus*

215+ bird-days. Noted daily at Tengchong – main event 185+ on 4<sup>th</sup>!

**Black-headed Greenfinch** *Carduelis ambigua*

Seven bird-days. Noted on two dates.

**Dark-breasted Rosefinch** *Carpodacus nipalensis*

One male along the track at Gaoligongshan on 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Vinaceous Rosefinch** *Carpodacus vinaceus*

Four bird-days. Noted at Gaoligongshan on two dates – two males on 2<sup>nd</sup>!

**Scarlet Finch** *Haematospiza sipahi*

One female migr at 09h07, *landing briefly*, near Ruili on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Brown Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula nipalensis*

22 bird-days. Noted at Gaoligongshan on two dates – main event 18, incl a flock of 15 birds, on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Eastern Rock Bunting** *Emberiza godlewskii*

Eight bird-days. Noted on two dates.

**Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla*

24 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

**Yellow-throated Bunting** *Emberiza elegans*  
6+ (incl three adult males!) at Lijiang on 25<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*\*\*

## MAMMALS

**Northern Tree Shrew** *Tupaia belangeri*

Eight animal-days. Noted on five dates.

\*\*\*Of the order *Scandentia*, which comprises 'five genera and 20 species' of which only one (of the 15 species in the genus *Tupaia*) occurs in China, Smith (2008) writes 'Few other taxa have proved to be as difficult to classify' – 'most recent treatments consider ['these squirrel-like animals'] most closely allied with Primates, *Dermoptera*, and *Chiroptera*'.

**Pallas' Squirrel** *Callosciurus erythraeus*

36+ animal-days. Noted on nine dates.

**Black Giant Squirrel** *Ratufa bicolor*

No fewer than four of these impressive animals at Gaoligongshan on 28<sup>th</sup>!