

CHINA - BEIDAIHE 2011

7th May – 21st May 2011

HIGHLIGHTS

Either for rarity value, excellent views or simply a group favourite.

- Yellow-rumped Flycatcher
- Siberian Blue Robin
- Siberian Rubythroat
- Dusky Thrush
- Grey-backed Thrush
- White-throated Rock-thrush
- Manchurian Reed-warbler
- White's Thrush
- Siberian Thrush
- Yellow-legged Buttonquail
- Pere David's Laughingthrush
- Red-necked Stint
- Grey-headed Lapwing
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
- Great Knot
- Grey-tailed Tattler
- Pied Harrier
- Chinese Leaf-warbler
- Mongolian Lark
- Spotted Bush Warbler
- Pallas Grasshopper Warbler
- Manchurian Bush-warbler
- Yellow-browed Bunting
- Pallas's Reed Bunting
- Red-billed Starling
- Black-capped Kingfisher
- Brown Hawk-owl
- Grey-headed Canary Fly
- Chinese Grosbeak
- Red-flanked Bluetail
- Chinese Nuthatch
- Lanceolated Warbler
- Ibisbill

Leaders: Nick Bray

SUMMARY:

The spring migration hot-spot of Beidaihe offers birders the unique opportunity to witness one of nature's truly outstanding spectacles. This eastern birding Mecca plays host every year to a mouth-watering selection of Siberian vagrants and in the right conditions can produce spectacular falls. Situated at the northern end of the Yellow Sea, the classic birding destinations of Beidaihe and Happy Island are superbly located to entice wave upon wave of tired migrants to linger in the scrub, small woods and gardens. Quite often they are exhausted and birds that are extremely shy on their breeding grounds are remarkably tame here and allow unparalleled opportunities to study them up close and personal! We also visit the hills to the north of Beijing for Ibisbill and Long-billed Plover, as well as staying at Zuyshan Forest Park in the mountains north of Beidaihe for a wonderful selection of breeding birds including the localised Chinese Leaf-warbler.

07th May 2011

Upon arrival at Beijing after a direct flight from the UK, we were whisked along the motorway on the four hour journey to Beidaihe. After checking in we headed out for a familiarisation of the local birding sites. Our first couple of **Radde's Warblers** were seen by the hotel gate and across the road in Suzi Wongs



The Ibisbill was a bird high on many peoples hit list and our visit to the mountains just outside of Beijing was rewarded with fabulous views of 6 birds.



Red-billed Blue magpie in hotel grounds

were at least another 5 more. *Phylloscopus* warblers were readily apparent with both **Yellow-browed** and **Hume's Warblers** seen well, and the first **Dusky Warbler** and **Eastern Great Tit** was also noted. A noisy **Red-billed Blue Magpie** provided a dash of the exotic, as did numerous **Chinese Bulbuls**. A short walk along the road took us to the excellent Friendship Hotel gardens where a **Yellow-rumped Flycatcher** and **Siberian Blue Robin** really stole the show. A **Claudia's Leaf-warbler** and **Asian Brown Flycatcher** were seen and a **Grey-sided Thrush** posed in a bare tree, whilst several **Eurasian Hoopoes**, **Oriental Turtle Dove**, **Oriental Greenfinch**, lots of **Pallas's Leaf-warblers**, and **Chinese Song Thrush** were all enjoyed. Walking back past Suzi Wongs we spotted a **Brown Shrike** that was now present, and then a cursory glance through the fence bordering the Jinshan Field produced a fine **Dusky Thrush** feeding right out in the open. Walking onto the field we found around 20+ **Siberian Stonechats**, another **Hoopoe** and our first **Black-faced Bunting**. The excellent food dished up at dinner was to set the scene for the rest of the tour.

8th May 2011

Due to a number of factors we had the morning birding around Beidaihe before heading south along the coast and our hotel for the next 3 nights. Our pre-breakfast walk proved many birds had departed overnight as we scoured the local sites, although a previously reported **Japanese Grosbeak** was a welcome sighting for the early risers as it sang from the tree tops. A stunning **Siberian Rubythroat** on Lighthouse Point was the only real bird of note apart from a **Brown Shrike**, and our first **Black-tailed Gulls**. And on to the Jinshan Field where all of yesterday evenings (**Siberian**) **Stonechats** had departed, with only a **Black-faced Bunting**, another **Brown Shrike** and a **Hoopoe** seen. So after breakfast we loaded up our luggage on to the coach and decided to check out the nearby Sandflats. A good decision as it turned out, with a **Pallas's Reed Bunting**, several **Chinese Penduline Tits** and a stonking summer plumaged **Red-necked Stint** found. Other notable goodies were at least 3 **Siberian Rubythroats**, **Siberian Blue Robin**, 2 **Terek Sandpipers**, 4 **Pacific Golden Plovers**, 3 **Lesser Sandpipers**, **Little Ringed** and **Kentish Plovers**, and a **Green Heron** spotted by Frank. Our next port of call was the Yang He Estuary where **Grey-headed Lapwing**, **Black-tailed** and (**Kamchatka**) **Mew Gulls**, **Far Eastern Curlew** and a mixed flock of **White-winged** and **Whiskered Terns** were present. The nearby scrub produced a few **Japanese Reed Buntings**, but back along the road we found a whole bunch of really good waders. It was a bit of a tricky walk crossing the dykes but we all managed it and in return scored with 22 **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers**, 20+ **Marsh Sandpipers**, 14 **Temminck's Stints**, 4 summer plumaged



What a great place to get close views of birds such as Dusky Warblers. On some days they were literally everywhere!



Radde's Warblers were also common and allowed great comparisons with the numerous Dusky Warblers!



This smart looking Dusky Thrush showed well for us in the nearby Jinshan Fields.



Siberian Blue Robins were easy seen!

Curlew Sandpipers, Lesser Sandplover and a Wood Sandpiper. By this time it was mid afternoon so we set out on the drive south and the lure of Magic Wood. The previous days sunny weather had by now deteriorated to a cloudy with occasional drizzle sort of afternoon. Luckily the rain held off for the next two hours as we checked out this migration hotspot. A flyover **Amur Falcon** and an **Eastern Crowned Warbler** provided us with great views to begin with, before we eventually located a small group of thrushes feeding along a sandy track. With 3 **Dusky** and 4 **Eye-browed Thrushes** there just had to be something else and sure enough a **Grey-backed Thrush** came into view. Later in the day a **Yellow-browed Bunting** gave us the run around but by this time we had already racked up a reasonable list with goodies such as **Siberian Rubythroat, Siberian Blue Robin, Yellow-browed and Pallas's Leaf-warblers, Asian Brown Flycatcher, Dusky and Radde's Warblers,** and a brief **Eurasian Wryneck.** As we returned to the bus a few **Gull-billed Terns** flew over.

9th May 2011

We had a late breakfast at 7am before driving the short distance to Big Wood. A **Siberian Rubythroat** and a cooperative **Mugimaki Flycatcher** got the ball rolling here, before the distinctive call of a **Pale-legged Leaf-warbler** led to the first of several sightings of this exquisite little bird. We slowly worked the trails here and began by heading out towards the edge of the wood where **Zitting Cisticola,** a few flyby **Pacific Golden Plovers, Brown Shrike** and a couple of **Yellow-breasted Buntings** were seen well. Along the forest edge we flushed several **Swinhoe's Snipe,** as well as seeing **Ashy Minivet** and **Japanese Waxwing.** Moving back into the central section an **Arctic Warbler** was new and we had nice looks at all the regular species including the commoner *phylloscs,* **Taiga Flycatcher, Siberian Blue Robin** and **Black-faced Bunting.** Both **Oriental** and **Lesser Cuckoos** were heard calling, but pride of place went to a **Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher.** At lunchtime we drove down to the harbour area where the tide was fully out and managed to pick up a **Sakhalina Dunlin,** both **Bar-tailed** and **Eastern Black-tailed Godwits, Far-eastern Curlew,** several **Lesser Sandpipers** and **Little Tern.** The small shrubs alongside the road were attracting numerous newly arrived warblers and other migrants including a few **Two-barred Greenish Warblers, Tristram's Bunting, Little Bunting** and a **Rufous-tailed Robin.** As the tide began to come in, an exposed long mudflat held numerous waders and we found a flock of **Great Knot.** Back at Magic Wood, which was relatively quiet, we found a **Black-capped Kingfisher** spotted by Judi, a **Brown Hawk-owl** and **Whites Thrush,** plus another **Swinhoe's Snipe.** We left here to resume our coverage at Big Wood where our arrival was greeted by a **Red-billed Starling,**



You need to get good views of some of the many similar looking warblers and this Eastern Crowned Warbler was one!



Smart looking Amur Falcons were a regular sighting most days!



This Mugamaki Flycatcher started our day off very nicely at Big Wood!



We saw many Rufous-tailed Robins but none of them showed as well as this one!

and shortly after in the overcast conditions we found an obliging **Blyth's Pipit** in the meadow, plus had scope views of a **White's Thrush**, 50+ **Eye-browed Thrushes**, 5 **Amur Falcons** and a flock of half a dozen **Yellow-browed Buntings**.

10th May 2011

At the harbour this morning David picked up a **Yellow-streaked Warbler** as we scanned the mudflats where **Great Knot**, **Lesser Sandpipers** and at least 8 **Terek Sandpipers** were found, plus a calling **Brambling** on the telegraph wire. At Magic Wood yesterdays **Black-capped Kingfisher** and **Brown Hawk-owl** were still present, although there was generally less here than before, although an initial flurry of activity saw us find **Rufous-tailed Robin**, **Red-billed Starling**, a brief **Red-flanked Bluetail** and we had cracking views of a **Pale-legged Leaf-warbler**. There was also several **Siberian Blue Robins**, **Yellow-rumped Flycatcher**, **Yellow-browed Bunting** and some other commoner migrants. As we headed towards the bus to leave a group of buntings was spotted in the trees beside the road, and we had fine views of a couple of **Chestnut Buntings** and a fine breeding male **Yellow-breasted Bunting** amongst others. At Magic Field we checked quite a wide area and came up trumps with a brief **Pechora Pipit**, 4 **Blyth's** and 3+ **Richards Pipits**, 5 **Japanese Quail**, **Pacific Golden Plover**, **Black-browed Reed-warbler**, **Purple Heron** and a flock of 15+ **Asian Short-toed Larks**. As we drove back towards Big Wood some recently flooded roadside paddyfields held a flock of over 70 **Curlew Sandpipers** and a cracking **Long-toed Stint**. The harbour wasn't far away and a quick check revealed nothing new but in the low bushes a **Lanceolated Warbler** gave fleeting glimpses. Big Wood was generally quiet save for 4 **White-throated Rock-thrushes**, a mixed group of **Eye-browed** and **Dusky Thrushes**, a **White's Thrush** and a nice perched **Grey Nightjar** found by Judi. Moving on we returned to Magic Wood where a couple of **Elegant Buntings** were scoped, and there were also a few other goodies such as **Tristram's** and **Black-faced Buntings** to keep us occupied.

11th May 2011

We left the hotel at 5.15am and drove over to Magic Wood and it was apparent that after a clear night many birds had left. Despite this we added **Black-naped Oriole** and a **Chestnut-eared Bunting** to our lists, the latter thanks to Dave M. A quick check of the harbour produced no gulls so we had time to check out Big Wood where a **Pale-legged Leaf-warbler** and an **Arctic Warbler** heralded our arrival. After only seeing **Mugimaki** and **Taiga Flycatchers** plus a small group of **Yellow-browed Buntings** we were just about to walk back to



Yellow-rumped Warblers like this one really are a delight to see and can brighten up even a good days birding!



An excellent spot by Judi this Grey Nightjar couldn't have posed better!



This Elegant Bunting was just one of 12 species of bunting that we encountered!



Little Buntings were easily seen in flocks

the bus when Peter appeared and showed us a photo of a bird he had just taken, which turned out to be a **Daurian Starling**. We hot-footed it down to the spot where he had seen the bird, unfortunately not relocating it. Yet turned up a number of goodies, with 2 **Japanese Waxwings**, 2 **Pin-tailed Snipe**, **Ashy Minivet**, **Common Rosefinch** and a flyover **Peregrine Falcon**. After breakfast we returned to the harbour where Granville spotted a **Greater Sandplover** before we visited the Luan He Estuary which turned out to be pretty quiet. At Da Pu He a number of **Olive-backed Pipits** showed really well, but it was one of the pools at Yang He that really turned up trumps. Firstly Bob spotted a **Citrine Wagtail** which initially disappeared, then as we tried to relocate it we stumbled across a pool which was full of waders. A pair of **Long-toed Stints** and several **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers** looked stunning in the afternoon sunshine and as we watched them they were joined by a couple of **Temminck's Stints**. Many **Marsh** and **Wood Sandpipers** were also present to keep us occupied. As if that wasn't enough a pair of **Chinese Penduline Tits** in the nearby reeds were joined by a very bright **Yellow-rumped Flycatcher**, and we did relocate Bob's **Citrine Wagtail** for all to see. We ended the day at the Friendship Hotel in Beidaihe where a flock of **Eye-browed** and **Dusky Thrushes** fed on a grassy field and were later joined by a fine looking **Grey-headed Woodpecker**.

12th May 2011

The day started quietly with our first **Pacific Swifts** moving north, but it was apparent that most of the passerines had moved off overnight. Still a few **Black-tailed Gulls** and an **Oriental Greenfinch** were on Lighthouse Point, and over on the Jinshan Field we watched large numbers of passerines flying high overhead towards the north. After a full English breakfast, with French fries, we visited the Lotus Hills in the hope that a few raptors would be passing in the very strong north-west wind. Closed to the Public this was one of the many sites that our hard working ground agent got us privileged access to. On the walk up **Yellow-bellied**, **Eastern Great** and **Marsh Tits** were found. Once at the top we scanned the skies and were treated to a superb raptor watch involving 12 species with the highlights being 29 **Oriental Honey Buzzards**, 2 **Grey-faced Buzzards**, 6 **Chinese Sparrowhawks**, 4 **Japanese Sparrowhawks**, several unidentified accipiters, 30 **Amur Falcons**, 1 **Osprey**, 1 **Eastern Buzzard**, 10 **Hen Harriers** and a single **Pied Harrier**. The walk back down also gave us a singing **Yellow-browed Warbler** and 3 **Common Rosefinches**. We then spent the rest of the day at the reservoir, where 6 **Eurasian Spoonbills**, **Garganey**, singing **Dusky Warbler** and an **Eastern Marsh Harrier** were the best sightings.



Japanese Waxwings are not always easy to find. We had them on 3 days



Great views of these Sharp-tailed Sandpipers alongside others waders!



Chinese Penduline Tits were seen in small groups in many reedy areas.



Up close with Yellow-browed Warblers.

13th May 2011

A day of surprises began with a pair of **Chinese Grosbeaks** feeding alongside the main seafront road near the hotel, and in between hearing one singing and locating them Frank had a close view of a **Spangled Drongo**. Lighthouse Point was pretty quiet so we had breakfast before heading to the Jaio Mountain Great Wall and spending a very good morning here, having already seen around 50 **Oriental Honey Buzzards** in a large kettle along the highway. Within minutes we were watching a **Meadow Bunting**, a flock of **Vinous-throated Parrotbills** and soon after a superb **Chinese Hill Warbler** that came down to check us out. As we had special permission to enter here, and it was closed to the public the chairlift was not working so we decided to set off up the trail that went alongside the wall. A **Pere David's Laughingthrush** began calling and we tracked one down which showed remarkably well to everyone. We also walked along the wall after climbing up a little higher and found **Japanese Waxwing**, a pair of **Blue Rock Thrushes**, plus a perched **Grey-faced Buzzard**, while at the bottom a pair of **Red-billed Choughs** flew in and landed in a small grassy area below us. Add to this **Oriental** and **Large-billed Crow** and a singing **Radde's Warbler**, plus some reasonably cold beers and we had had a good visit. Next up was a nearby coastal area where we spent the remainder of the day amidst the best migration spectacle of the tour so far. So many **Brown Shrikes**, **Siberian Stonechats**, **Radde's** and **Dusky Warblers** were around it was hard to keep up. Add to this many **Asian Brown** and **Taiga Flycatchers** and we knew there would be other goodies. A **Black Drongo**, a few **Eurasian Wrynecks**, **Black-browed Reed-warbler**, **Common Cuckoo**, **Red-throated Pipit**, **Blyth's** and **Richards Pipits**, **Pintail** and **Swinhoe's Snipes**, **Japanese Quail**, **Chestnut-eared Bunting** and **Siberian Blue Robin**. At the seafront a **Grey-tailed Tattler** was feeding beside 4 **Red-necked Stints**, some **Kentish Plovers** and a couple of **Lesser Sandplovers**. It was hard to tear ourselves away but by 5.30pm we had to leave and drive back to the Jinshan Hotel where some more cold beers and a superb dinner were the order of the day.

14th May 2011

With a high pressure off Hebei Province the day turned out to be rather quiet for overall numbers of birds but made up for that in quality. Our pre-breakfast walk around Jinshan and Friendship Hotels only turned up a flyby **White's Thrush** and our first **Grey-streaked Flycatcher** but made us appreciate our buffet-style meal. Afterwards we visited Yang He and checked out the wood and pools, and whilst walking through one of the fields a **Daurian Starling** flew right past us. A few **Black Drongos** were moving through, as were groups of **Little** and



A confiding pair of Chinese Grosbeaks was a great start to the days birding!



Cute looking Vinous-throated Parrotbill!



This superb Chinese Hill Warbler came in close to check us out.



Red-necked Stint and Sharpie together.

Chestnut Buntings, with a **Chestnut-eared Bunting** seen by a few. Lots of **Yellow Wagtails** were feeding in a recently ploughed field and were joined by a very bright **Citrine Wagtail**. One pool held a lot of waders with several smart summer plumaged **Spotted Redshanks** adding to the kaleidoscope of action here. With **Sharp-tailed**, **Marsh** and **Wood Sandpipers**, **Long-toed** and **Temminck's Stints** all appreciatively grilled, we decided to head back to our hotel and a siesta over the midday. Afterwards we visited Jinshan Field where a **Long-tailed Minivet** flew over, Lighthouse Point where **Radde's**, **Dusky**, **Pallas's Leaf** and **Yellow-browed Warblers** were present, and via another **Chinese Grosbeak** to the Friendship Hotel and a flock of **Chestnut-sided** and **Japanese White-eyes**, plus a male **White-throated Rock-thrush**, and frustratingly only hearing an **Oriental Scops-owl**.

15th May 2011

Following a tip-off we decided to try and see a reported **Schrenck's Bittern** near the Great Wall and set off at 5.30am which turned out to be a wild goose chase, but turned up an (**Eastern**) **Water Rail** instead. Our intended destination wasn't too far away and we spent the day at a coastal site which provided the best day's birding of the tour so far. A small woodland held several **Asian Brown** and a **Streaked Flycatcher**, whilst it was apparent there had been a huge fall of **Radde's** and **Dusky Warblers**, as well as **Brown Shrikes**. As we crossed an open grassy area a **Lanceolated Warbler** took off and landed on top of a small mound where it remained motionless for us and allowed superb close photographic opportunities. There are numerous pools in this area and we spent quite some time walking around them and eventually had decent views of **Black-browed Reed-warbler**, which numbered around 50 by the end of the day. A male **Pallas's Reed Bunting** was seen drinking at the edge of one pool, and there was also **Chestnut-eared Bunting** present. More **Lanceolated** followed with up to 15 being seen, along with a fall of **Two-barred Greenish Warblers**, a couple of **Eastern Crowned Warblers**, plenty of **Dusky Warblers**, 8+ **Richard's Pipits** and a **Blue Rock Thrush**. For most of the day we worked a small area of Pine woodland beside the beach which was literally heaving with migrants, many of which were newly arrived and some seen actually landing on the beach itself. At least 6 **Red-flanked Bluetails**, 15 **Bluethroats**, 50 **Siberian Rubythroats**, and 12 **Rufous-tailed Robins** were skulking in the shadier sections, whilst 2 **Brown Hawk-owls**, 2 **Grey Nightjars** and a **Yellow-legged Buttonquail** were seen. Rather oddly, a **Schrenck's Bittern** flew out of the wood and was seen in the Pine trees before flying away. A flock of **Whiskered Terns** flew over, **Heuglin's Gulls** flew past the beach, while



On some days Pallas's Warblers were simply everywhere you looked!



This was one of several cracking White-throated Rock-Thrushes we found!



We had fantastic views of Lanceolated Warblers with up to 15 in just one day!



A showy Black-browed Reed Warbler.

Dusky and Eye-browed Thrushes and a fine **Thick-billed Warbler** finished the day off nicely.

16th May 2011

Our walk before breakfast was relatively quiet compared to yesterday's excitement but we still saw **Grey-headed Woodpecker**, **Grey-backed Thrush**, **Siberian Rubythroat**, **Red-flanked Bluetail**, **Radde's** and **Dusky Warblers** and a brief **Long-tailed Minivet**. So no need to dally and after a good breakfast we loaded our overnight bags onto the coach and headed up to Zuyshan Forest Park or Old Peak as it is more commonly known. A **Blunt-winged Warbler** and **Godlewski's Bunting** were located before reaching the entrance gate where we were once again allowed to enter due to special permission, as this park is closed to visitors at present and most birding groups are not allowed to visit. Once we had sorted our rooms out we ate our picnic lunches outside watching a **Chinese Nuthatch** taking food into its nest in a hole in a small tree opposite the hotel. A short drive then took us up the mountain to the pass where we quickly located an extremely cooperative **Chinese Leaf-warbler** that came in so close and checked us out. Shortly after a **Hume's Warbler** proved equally obliging. A few people went off up a steep trail and had views of a male **Koklass Pheasant**. With the temperature dropping and a light shower we drove back down to the hotel, where a few of us checked out a previously seen **Asian Stubtail** which had remained faithful to the same spot allowing most of the group decent views.

17th May 2011

A day of contrasts today with an early start to visit the pass where practically gale force winds curtailed any attempts at any skulking redstarts so we walked down the 'slightly less windy' slope where **Chinese** and **Hume's Warblers** were showing well. An **Oriental Cuckoo** flew by and called from a concealed position, whilst **Eurasian Jay**, **Marsh Tit**, **Claudia's Leaf-warbler** and **Yellow-rumped Flycatcher** were seen. Back at the hotel we had breakfast and **Chinese Nuthatch** again before decamping down the mountain and scoring heavily with a perched **Manchurian Bush-warbler** singing from the top of a tree, as well as close views of a singing **Meadow Bunting** and a brief **Godlewski's Bunting**. Hoping the weather would be better along the coast we headed down and visited our favourite site where the wind was a lot better but the birding started slowly. If only we could have known what was in store! The trees behind the beach which were previously teeming with birds just held a single **Rufous-tailed Robin**, **Black-browed Reed-warbler** and one or two **Dusky Warblers**. But as we slowly walked back inland our luck changed when another



One of the highland species we were after was this Godlewski's Bunting!



This Chinese Nuthatch had a nest just twenty feet from the front of our hotel!



We had great views of Chinese Leaf Warbler, one of our target species!



Hume's Warblers were common and quite showy in the highlands!

birder appeared and said he'd seen a **Baillon's Crake** along one of the pools. We drew a blank on this but literally stumbled across a small brown skulker that acted like a Lancy but clearly wasn't. After a little while we relocated the bird which crept through the grass on the bank like a mouse and tried to hide from us but didn't succeed as we had tremendous views of this **Baikal Bush-warbler** from just a few feet away. There was another **Lanceolated Warbler** found in the same spot before we moved on. Passing through a small wood full of **Radde's** and **Pallas's Leaf-warblers**, plus a **Grey-streaked Flycatcher**, a group of guys from Spurn came and told us they had just found a **Mongolian Lark** so we rushed over to the spot and arrived in time to scope this 'mega' before returning to the Jinshan Hotel for a celebratory beer.



To everyone's relief this Baillon's Crake eventually came out into the open!

18th May 2011

A quiet start to the day around Beidaihe prompted a return visit to our favourite site along the coast. A group of 5 close **Grey-tailed Tattlers** at the start of the estuary was a good way to kick-start proceedings. We split up and covered different areas with some of the group checking the area frequented by yesterday's lark and the rest covering the fields and small woodlands. After a while the walkie-talkie crackled into life with the news of a male **Siberian Thrush** feeding beside the main track and with a little effort for some everyone managed ace views. Phew! We had been waiting for this one since the start of the trip and there it was. Fantastic! As we followed this bird into the next small wood a **Black-capped Kingfisher** flew by and then a **Baillon's Crake** was spotted skulking along one of the ditches. The rest of the day was a little slow here but our first **Dark-sided Flycatcher** was found, and then news broke of a **Russet Sparrow** nearby which we could unfortunately not locate. Yet there were still plenty of birds to see and ones that draw birders here from all over the world. A flock of **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers**, **Red-necked Stint**, **Siberian Rubythroat**, **Siberian Blue Robin**, another **Manchurian Reed-warbler**, several **Lanceolated**, **Eastern Crowned**, **Two-barred Greenish** and **Thick-billed Warblers**, 15+ **Richard's Pipits** and an **Elegant Bunting** amongst others.



What a find this Baikal Bush-warbler acted just like a mouse at our feet!



A nice group of five Grey-tailed Tattlers were a delight to watch.

19th May 2011

Our last morning turned out to be a frantic but nevertheless exhilarating time as Lighthouse Point produced a mini-fall this morning before breakfast. At least 10 **Lanceolated Warblers** were present, along with a flyby **Daurian Starling**, **Thick-billed Warbler**, **Japanese Quail**, **Chinese Penduline-tit**, and a fine **Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler** skulking near the point. A **Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike** was heard but was only later



Stunning Two-barred Greenish Warbler!

located by other birders, and there was also **Siberian Rubythroat** and a **Bluethroat** as well. As we returned to our rooms after breakfast news broke of a **Forest Wagtail** across the road in Suzi Wong's so we all made it over there in time to add it to our lists. Then we went to the Reservoir where **Chinese Blackbird**, **Yellow-rumped** and **Chinese Flycatchers**, **Oriental** and **Black-browed Reed-warblers** **Vinous-throated Parrotbill**, **Arctic Warbler**, **Eye-browed Thrush**, female **White-throated Rock-thrush**, **Rufous-bellied Woodpecker**, another **Forest Wagtail**, **Amur Falcon**, and **Purple Heron** were seen. A quick check of the Yang He estuary resulted in a 1st winter **Little Gull**, a very rare bird for this area. We then took the long drive to Beijing arriving in the early evening where we went to a local restaurant for dinner.

20th May 2011

This morning we set off early and headed into the hills. A stop along a bridge crossing a river produced a few **Hill Pigeons**, and a little further on we found a **Black Stork** feeding in a small stream. We then began our methodical search of the Bai He River, first finding real wild **Mandarin Ducks** and then a superb **Crested Kingfisher** perched on a rock. There were always the odd **Chinese Pond-heron** and **Black-crowned Night-herons** around, as well as **Little Grebe** and fly over **Oriental Honey Buzzard**. At a perfect area of gravel and stone fringed tumbling river we then found our main target bird a lone **Ibisbill** which was surprisingly well camouflaged even though it was out in the open. As we intently watched this prized bird it became apparent that there was another sat motionless in the gravel. Nearby our attention got drawn to an adult **Long-billed Plover** which had a couple of tiny chicks following close by. The **Ibisbill** had been rather elusive this year so we were pleased to find this pair. Moving on we checked an area of scrubby hillside and were rewarded with great views of **Chinese Hill Warbler**, **Eastern Crowned Warbler**, **Godlewski's**, **Meadow** and **Chestnut-eared Buntings** plus a **Eurasian Sparrowhawk**. A pleasant lunch stop allowed us time to savour a group of **Vinous-throated Parrotbills** and then afterwards we took a short walk beside the river and scrubby hillside. A couple of **Pere David's Laughingthrushes** were found before another **Ibisbill** was spotted flying down river. Our search revealed not one but 4 of these magnificent birds and what views we got! While here a **Black-capped Kingfisher** was seen plus some nesting **Songar Tits** and a great find by Geoff and Mick of a **Plumbeous Redstart** feeding energetically on the stones in a small stream where it gave wonderful views to all. Happy with the successes of today we made our way back to Beijing and our final dinner of the tour.



Claudia's Warbler singing away was a great bird to see well in the highlands!



Smart looking Meadow Buntings were very vocal and easily located!



Not just one but six Ibisbills were a delight and gave us stunning close views!



What a great way to end our tour with this unexpected Plumbeous Redstart!

21st May 2011

This morning we had an early breakfast and then all set off to Beijing Airport where we said our goodbyes and all connected with our respective flights to different areas of the globe.

I would like to thank everyone on the tour for making it fun and exciting. This tour runs very different from our usual style in that it is numbers of eyes and client participation that can help turn up some of the many migrants that can literally be anywhere. With this in mind I would like to thank everyone again for their help in joining in and contributing to our many fantastic finds. I would also like to thank Viv Stratton, Steve Bird and Gina Nichol who were on holiday themselves but gave invaluable help and guidance.

Nick Bray.

BIRDLIST FOR CHINA - BEIDAIHE MAY 2011

The List Follows Clements Checklist of Birds of the World 2011

	SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME
1.	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
2.	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
3.	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
4.	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
5.	Schrenck's Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus eurhythmus</i>
6.	Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
7.	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striatus amurensis</i>
8.	Chinese Pond-Heron	<i>Ardeola bacchus</i>
9.	(Asian) Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis coromandus</i>
10.	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
11.	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>
12.	(Australasian) Great Egret	<i>Egretta alba modestus</i>
13.	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
14.	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
15.	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
16.	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
17.	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
18.	Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>
19.	Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca crecca</i>
20.	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>
21.	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
22.	Chinese Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas zonorhyncha</i>
23.	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>
24.	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>
25.	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaeetus</i>
26.	Oriental Honey-Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhyncus orientalis</i>
27.	Pied Harrier	<i>Curcus melanoleucos</i>

28.	Northern Harrier (Eurasian)	<i>Circus cyaneus cyaneus</i>
29.	Eastern Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus spilonotus spilonotus</i>
30.	Chinese Goshawk	<i>Accipiter soloensis</i>
31.	Japanese Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter gularis</i>
32.	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo japonicus</i>
33.	Grey-faced Buzzard	<i>Butastur indicus</i>
34.	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
35.	Amur Falcon	<i>Falco amurensis</i>
36.	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
37.	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
38.	Japanese Quail	<i>Coturnix japonica</i>
39.	Yellow-legged Buttonquail	<i>Turnix tanki</i>
40.	Koklass Pheasant	<i>Pucrasia macrolopha</i>
41.	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
42.	Water Rail	<i>Rallus indicus korejewi</i>
43.	Baillon's Crake	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>
44.	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
45.	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
46.	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
47.	Ibisbill	<i>Ibidorhyncha struthersii</i>
48.	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
49.	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
50.	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
51.	Long-billed Plover	<i>Charadrius placidus</i>
52.	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>
53.	Lesser Sand-Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>
54.	Greater Sand-Plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>
55.	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>
56.	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
57.	Grey-headed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus cinereus</i>
58.	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
59.	Great Knot	<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>
60.	Red-necked Stint	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>
61.	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>
62.	Long-toed Stint	<i>Calidris subminuta</i>
63.	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>
64.	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpine sakhalia</i>
65.	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
66.	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
67.	Pintail Snipe	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>
68.	Swinhoe's Snipe	<i>Gallinago megala</i>
69.	(Siberian) Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa melanuroides</i>
70.	(Siberian) Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica baueri</i>
71.	Common Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
72.	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
73.	Far Eastern Curlew	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>
74.	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>
75.	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
76.	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>

77.	Common Greenshank		<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
78.	Green Sandpiper		<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
79.	Wood Sandpiper		<i>Tringa glareola</i>
80.	Terek Sandpiper		<i>Xenus cinereus</i>
81.	Common Sandpiper		<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
82.	Grey-tailed Tattler		<i>Heteroscelus brevipes</i>
83.	Ruddy Turnstone		<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
84.	Little Gull		<i>Larus minutus</i>
85.	Black-headed Gull		<i>Larus ridibundus</i>
86.	Black-tailed Gull		<i>Larus crassirostris</i>
87.	(Kamchatka) Mew Gull		<i>Larus canus kamtschatschensis</i>
88.	(Heuglin's) Lesser Black-backed Gull		<i>Larus fuscus heuglini</i>
89.	(Vega) Herring Gull		<i>Larus argentatus vegae</i>
90.	Gull-billed Tern		<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
91.	Common Tern		<i>Sterna hirundo longipennis</i>
92.	Little Tern		<i>Sterna albifrons sinensis</i>
93.	Whiskered Tern		<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>
94.	White-winged Tern		<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>
95.	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon		<i>Columbia livia</i>
96.	Hill Pigeon		<i>Columbia rupestris</i>
97.	Eurasian Collared Dove		<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
98.	Oriental Turtle-Dove		<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>
99.	Spotted Dove		<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>
100.	Large Hawk-Cuckoo	(H)	<i>Cuculus sparverioides</i>
101.	Common Cuckoo		<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
102.	Oriental Cuckoo		<i>Cuculus saturatus</i>
103.	Lesser Cuckoo	(H)	<i>Cuculus poliocephalus</i>
104.	Oriental Scops-Owl	(H)	<i>Otus sunia</i>
105.	Brown Hawk-Owl		<i>Ninox japonica florensis</i>
106.	Grey Nightjar		<i>Caprimulgus jotaka</i>
107.	Common Swift		<i>Apus apus pekinensis</i>
108.	Pacific Swift		<i>Apus pacificus</i>
109.	Black-capped Kingfisher		<i>Halcyon pileata</i>
110.	Common Kingfisher		<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
111.	Crested Kingfisher		<i>Ceryle lugubris</i>
112.	Eurasian Hoopoe		<i>Upupa epops</i>
113.	Eurasian Wryneck		<i>Jynx torquilla</i>
114.	Grey-headed Woodpecker		<i>Picus canus</i>
115.	Great Spotted Woodpecker		<i>Picoides major</i>
116.	Rufous-bellied Woodpecker		<i>Picoides hyperythrus</i>
117.	Mongolian Lark		<i>Melanocorypha mongolica</i>
118.	Asian Short-toed Lark		<i>Calandrella cheleensis</i>
119.	Sand Martin		<i>Riparia riparia</i>
120.	Barn Swallow		<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
121.	Red-rumped Swallow		<i>Hirundo daurica</i>
122.	Richard's Pipit		<i>Anthus richardi</i>
123.	Blyth's Pipit		<i>Anthus godlewskii</i>
124.	Olive-backed Pipit		<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>
125.	Pechora Pipit		<i>Anthus gustavi</i>

126.	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>
127.	Forest Wagtail	<i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>
128.	Eastern Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla tschutschensis</i>
129.	Western Yellow Wagtail (Manchurian)	<i>Motacilla flava macronyx</i>
130.	Western Yellow Wagtail (Green-headed)	<i>Motacilla flava taivana</i>
131.	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>
132.	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
133.	White Wagtail (Chinese)	<i>Motacilla alba leucopsis</i>
134.	White Wagtail (Transbaikalian)	<i>Motacilla alba baicalensis</i>
135.	Black-winged Cuckooshrike (H)	<i>Coracina melaschistos</i>
136.	Ashy Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus divaricatus</i>
137.	Long-tailed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>
138.	Chinese Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus sinensis</i>
139.	Japanese Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla japonica</i>
140.	Rufous-tailed Robin	<i>Larvivora sibilans</i>
141.	Siberian Blue Robin	<i>Larvivora cyane</i>
142.	Siberian Rubythroat	<i>Calliope calliope</i>
143.	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>
144.	Red-flanked Bluetail	<i>Tarsiger cyanurus</i>
145.	Plumbeous Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus fuliginosus</i>
146.	Daurian Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus aureus</i>
147.	(Siberian) Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata przewalskii</i>
148.	White-throated Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola gularis</i>
149.	Blue Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius philippensis</i>
150.	White's Thrush	<i>Zoothera dauma</i>
151.	Siberian Thrush	<i>Zoothera sibirica</i>
152.	Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula mandarinus</i>
153.	Grey-sided Thrush	<i>Turdus feae</i>
154.	Grey-backed Thrush	<i>Turdus hortulorum</i>
155.	Pale Thrush	<i>Turdus pallidus</i>
156.	Eye-browed Thrush	<i>Turdus obscurus</i>
157.	Dusky Thrush	<i>Turdus eunomus</i>
158.	Chinese Song Thrush	<i>Turdus mupinensis</i>
159.	Asian Stubtail	<i>Urosphena squameiceps</i>
160.	Manchurian Bush-Warbler	<i>Cettia canturians</i>
161.	Baikal Bush-Warbler	<i>Bradypterus davidi</i>
162.	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
163.	Chinese Hill Warbler	<i>Rhopophilus pekinensis</i>
164.	Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella certhiola</i>
165.	Lanceolated Warbler	<i>Locustella lanceolata</i>
166.	Black-browed Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus bistrigiceps</i>
167.	Blunt-winged Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus concinens</i>
168.	Manchurian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus tangorum</i>
169.	Oriental Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus orientalis</i>
170.	Thick-billed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus aedon</i>
171.	Claudia's Leaf-Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus claudiae</i>
172.	Eastern Crowned Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus coronatus</i>
173.	Pale-legged Leaf-Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus tenellipes</i>
174.	Two-barred Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus</i>

175.	Arctic Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>
176.	Pallas's Leaf-Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>
177.	Chinese Leaf-Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus yunnanensis</i>
178.	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>
179.	Hume's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei mandellii</i>
180.	Radde's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i>
181.	Yellow-streaked Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus armandii</i>
182.	Dusky Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>
183.	Dark-sided Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa sibirica</i>
184.	Grey-streaked Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa griseisticta</i>
185.	Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>
186.	Yellow-rumped Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula zanthopygia</i>
187.	Narcissus Flycatcher (Green-backed)	<i>Ficedula narcissina elisae</i>
188.	Mugimaki Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula mugimaki</i>
189.	Taiga Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>
190.	Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis calochrysea</i>
191.	Vinous-throated Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis webbianus</i>
192.	Pere David's Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax davidi</i>
193.	Long-tailed Tit (H)	<i>Aegithalos caudatus vinaceus</i>
194.	Chinese Penduline-Tit	<i>Remiz consobrinus</i>
195.	Marsh Tit	<i>Parus palustris</i>
196.	Songar Tit	<i>Poecile songarus</i>
197.	Yellow-bellied Tit	<i>Parus venustulus</i>
198.	(Japanese) Great Tit	<i>Parus major minor</i>
199.	Chinese Nuthatch	<i>Sitta villosa</i>
200.	Chestnut-flanked White-Eye	<i>Zosterops erythropleurus</i>
201.	Japanese White-Eye	<i>Zosterops japonicus</i>
202.	Black-naped Oriole	<i>Oriolus chinensis</i>
203.	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>
204.	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>
205.	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
206.	Red-billed Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa erythrorhyncha</i>
207.	Azure-winged Magpie	<i>Cyanopica cyana</i>
208.	Black-billed Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>
209.	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>
210.	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone orientalis</i>
211.	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>
212.	Daurian Starling	<i>Sturnus sturnina</i>
213.	Red-billed Starling	<i>Sturnus sericeus</i>
214.	White-cheeked Starling	<i>Sturnus cineraceus</i>
215.	Crested Myna	<i>Acridotheres cristatellus</i>
216.	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>
217.	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>
218.	Oriental Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis sinica</i>
219.	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>
220.	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>
221.	Yellow-billed Grosbeak	<i>Eophona migratoria</i>
222.	Japanese Grosbeak	<i>Eophona personata</i>
223.	Black-faced Bunting	<i>Emberiza spodocephala</i>

224.	Godlewski's Bunting	<i>Emberiza godlewskii</i>
225.	Siberian Meadow Bunting	<i>Emberiza cioides</i>
226.	Chestnut-eared Bunting	<i>Emberiza fucata</i>
227.	Yellow-throated Bunting	<i>Emberiza elegans</i>
228.	Yellow-browed Bunting	<i>Emberiza chrysophrys</i>
229.	Tristram's Bunting	<i>Emberiza tristrami</i>
230.	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>
231.	Chestnut Bunting	<i>Emberiza rutila</i>
232.	Yellow-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza aureola</i>
233.	Pallas's Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza pallasi</i>
234.	Japanese Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza yessoensis</i>

	Other Wildlife	Scientific Name
1.	Finless Porpoise	<i>Neophocaena phocaenoides</i>
2.	Chinese Hedgehog	<i>Hemiechinus hughi</i>
3.	Cape hare	<i>Lepus capensis</i>
4.	Unidentified snake sp	

Note that some names may differ from those recorded on our checklist. This falls in line with Clement's List which was updated Aug 2011