

Happy Island, China 5th-21st May 1998

Itinerary | Observations |



We were seven Swedes that made a birding trip to Happy Island, China 5th-21st May 1998. The island is situated in the Bo Hai Bay in the Yellow Sea in Hopeh about 250 km E of Beijing. A total of 208 species were seen.

- **Per-Anders Bertilsson**, Malmö, Sweden
 - **Stefan Cherrug**, Malmö, Sweden
 - **Hans-Åke Gustavsson**, Malmö, Sweden
 - **Benny Karlsson**, Karlskoga, Sweden
 - **Gunilla Larsson**, Lund, Sweden
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 - **Bo Petersson**, Malmö, Sweden
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Itinerary

Weather

The weather was very stable with little variation compared to the wandering cyclones characteristic of Western Europe. On 7th there was some light rain in the morning and no wind. In the evening the sun appeared. Day three and on the 9th, the weather was also cloudy, but during the rest of our stay it was warm. Almost every day the wind was from Southwest and moderate.

Itinerary

5th and **6th**. Finally airborne and on our way to China. Due to a strike in Denmark we had to fly from Stockholm instead. The days before our trip some redirected planes to Beijing from Stockholm were cancelled so we were a bit worried. On our day of departure, everything works according to plan. During the journey from Scania to Stockholm there were few birds but we saw an elk, a fox and some roe deers instead.

After a calm, but very short night we landed in Beijing after 7,5 h. The weather was warm and nice although it was only 7 am. The first bird to be observed was **Tree Sparrow**. Some **Blue-winged Magpies** and **Red-rumped Swallows** are also among the first birds. Ahead of us we had what should prove to be a whole day of travelling to the island, *Happy Island*. The chauffeur slides between cars, buses, lorries and small Chinese tractors and moments of possible accidents were frequent.

A pleasant lunch consisting of eight courses and costing 20 yuan per person including beer is ordered along the road in one of many restaurants. In the afternoon we arrived to the harbour where the boat should bring us out to the island. During the hour we had to wait on the pier we were surrounded of Chinese people. They were close but not disturbingly so. The first wader-ticks were noted: e.g. **Lesser Sand Plover**, **Red-necked Stint**, **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**, **Great Knot**.

Finally we arrived on the island and our quarter for the next fortnight is a house of stone next to an old Buddhist temple. Dinner was served and after ticking observed species in the list, the generator stopped at 9:50 p.m. and the lights were out. This day Bo had his 40th birthday and we were singing and cheering to celebrate him.

7th. Early morning, the clock was 5 am. In daylight the island looks rather nice, although situated in a mudflat area. Large green areas and lines of bushes makes the island suitable for birdwatchers as well as for birds. The weather is changing from light rain in the morning to bright sunlight in the afternoon. The first breakfast consisted of eggs and sweet bread. Potatoes were served at lunch and something that reminds of French fries is among the courses at dinner. Per-Anders says that the cooking has improved a lot since he was here the last time. Maybe the chef has attended some course.

The day is of course spent on bird watching, but a roundtrip is also on the schedule so that we got a feeling of the shape of the island. I (Gunilla) headed "home" at 5 p.m. and **Stonechats** were sitting on every grass straw on the way back. Good species of the day were **Amur Falcon**, **Grey-headed Lapwing**, **Indian Cuckoo**, **White-throated Rock Thrush**, **Eye-browed Thrush**, **Siberian Thrush**, **Tristram's Bunting** and **Japanese Reed Bunting**.

8th. The weather was hot and sunny all day. That resulted in fewer birds, but some ticks were noted anyway, e.g. **Pale Thrush**. The presence of the sun make several of us believing in hot water in the showers, since we have heard that sun-driven heaters have been installed. I don't think they had been properly installed, though, since the water was everything but hot. In the afternoon many of us were resting. The sun made the group, normally hardworking, a bit tired. Per-Anders tried to cure his whooping cough according to old methods of nature, i.e. drinking whisky and smoking the bacteria out of his lungs! The highlight of the day was a **White's Thrush**. During the afternoon a **Yellow-bellied Tit** was observed just outside our house. **Grey-headed Lapwing** and **White-cheeked Starling** were also noted, but the species of the day was a **Grey Bushchat** in a ditch next to the temple.

9th. Again a nice morning. Calm, cloudy and a lot of birds. This day we only had the time to watch birds in the grove behind the temple, except Stefan who took a long walk to look for waders. He was awarded with great views of **Shelduck** but also had some suspected **Relict Gulls** at a long distance. Good bird of the day were **Swinhoe's Snipe** and **Yellow-throated Sparrow**.

The afternoon turned out to be very good. Bo mounted his net behind the temple and he caught some nice birds. Everybody fetched their cameras and the party could begin. Bo showed **Grey-backed Thrush**, **Siberian Blue Robin** and finally a **White-throated Rock Thrush**, a stunning male. All were happy and we all celebrated the moment with coffee and cognac. However the mood of Thomas was decreasing rapidly since he got a problem with his camera. After trying virtually everything he put it away. I picked it up and merely touched it and behold, it worked again.

After the twitching in the evening we paid a quick visit to the "disco". In the same house we were

staying in, the Chinese had arranged with spotlights, coloured disco lamps and a TV-video-set with Karaoke. The party was on until 10 p.m. when the generator was shut off and the electricity with it. Calm descended over the birdwatchers and the island.

10th. A day with too good weather and few birds. People were less happy and some even tries to read a bit of emergency literature. The afternoon was spent on wader-watching. It was a long walk and it was blowing hard. The mud was also constantly reminding us of the situation. Since I thought the distance to the waders was too long I was looking for shells and things along the coastline. The dinner was very good and so far it had become better and better for each day. Now, Per-Anders was certain that the chef had taken cooking lessons. Although cloudy from time to time, all had red faces. Many ticks also made some of the men afraid that the "ticking-whisky" will not last for the whole trip. Birds of the day were **Manchurian Bush Warbler** and **Pale-legged Leaf Warbler**.

11th. I tried to sleep longer this morning but it didn't worked out. Thomas came running to fetch me telling me that there was a **Black-necked Oriole** and a **Hair-crested Drongo** in the grove. Since this type of birds appeal to me and are among my favourites (category colourful/odd birds) I hurried up. Just before lunch a big group of birders had arrived. It was a group of 30 birders travelling with **SunBirds**. After lunch a **Brown Hawk-owl** had been found which excited all of the birders. In the bush next to it a **Rufous-bellied Woodpecker** was sitting, unaware of the presence of the owl, it seemed. We who were staying on the island for a longer period thought that the island was crowded so we went for waders. Among other things we saw large numbers of **Asiatic Dowitchers** and **Great Knots**. Stefan and Hans-Åke stayed a bit longer than the rest of us and they saw a strange wader. Arriving a bit late for dinner they told us what they had seen. They were not 100% sure, but after consulting books and also talking to the Finnish group they were convinced that it was a **Nordmann's Greenshank** they had seen (popularly called guttifer in our group). We were all happy for the two finders but we also hoped that it would stay, so that we also should have a chance to see the bird. Other highlights of the day were **Oriental Pratincole**, **Relict Gulls**, **Pallas's** and **Japanese Reed Bunting**.

12th. A sunny but very windy morning. **SunBirds** was back after a night on the mainland, so the grove was loaded with people. Few birds and a lot of sun, so I took a rest, sunbathing and reading during the afternoon. Hans-Åke found a **Chinese Leaf Warbler** right in front of me and I was sent away to fetch the rest. After lunch the Belgian group said goodbye and left the island. They were going to Beidahe next. The afternoon was spent looking for a **Grey-sided Thrush**, which was observed by a few persons only, but no luck and the highlight of the day was the warbler together with the trip's only **Little Cuckoo**.

13th. This was the hottest morning so far. At lunchtime Stefan's watch, which can tell you practically everything (except the time), shows 28.5°C in the shadow and normal atmospheric pressure. The Finnish group had put up nets behind the temple and Bo and Benny had a net in the ditch. It caused no problems since few birders were left on the island. Since I am a bit less "serious" with my bird watching I spent the rest of the day resting, reading and sunbathing. Hans-Åke, Stefan and Per-Anders had been around the island looking for and finding new birds. Away from the others I managed to find **Yellow-rumped Flycatcher**, **Daurian Redstart** and **Kingfisher**, i.e. birds of my taste. The others also noted **Watercock**, **Yellow-legged Buttonquail**, **Large Hawk Cuckoo**, **Chinese Thrush**, **Blyth's Leaf Warbler** and **Eastern Crowned Warbler** and **Daurian Jackdaw**. The Fins found and photographed a warbler reminding of a **Dusky Warbler** but yellow underneath. Stefan also got a glimpse of the bird that still is unidentified.

14th. People were getting a bit stressed at this point. Over half time and still many bird species left to be recorded. On this trip the weather has been too good. Later we got to know that this spring has been unusually hot and sunny for large areas in China. A lot of birds have probably just migrated over our heads. Everybody were out of their beds at 5 am and behold, gold was coming from the skies. **Rufous-tailed Robin** in the ditch, **Brown Flycatcher**, **Siberian Rubythroats**, **Black-capped Kingfisher** and a **Dollarbird**. Everything literally just fell down from the skies. At breakfast the Finnish group told us that they had an early morning among the waders and had good views of a **Nordmann's Greenshank**. Of course, these men had to try their luck and so we all went down to look for guttifer at the worst time of the day: low tide, the sun in our eyes and heat turbulence. I gave up first and walked back to the shore after gliding around in the mud without so much as of a sight of

neither the very distant water nor any birds. The men gave up a bit later and admitted that it was a rather stupid idea and that a new search would be better in the afternoon, when the tide would be high and the light conditions better. Although two searches undertaken that day, no gull was sighted by our group, but a **Schrenck's Little Bittern** was a redeemer for that long walk. Cognac and whisky for the men and martini for the lady at the obligatory ticking and then quickly to bed before the lights went out.

15th. The day started like the previous. I arrived a little later than the others did and I had again seen **Blue Rock Thrush**, **Eyebrowed Thrush** and **Brown Flycatchers**. After breakfast we were heading through the dense bushes towards the harbour. For the first time in nine days, we were leaving the island. When the boat had been jerked off the mud and out into the river we were all set. However, the engine was broken and while the Chinese were trying to fix the boat, we were eating our lunch to save time. The problem was bigger than first believed and the time was flying away. Meanwhile, the Chinese were collecting reed and built a bonfire to get in contact with the mainland! Unsuccessful as they were, they started to gather even more reed so we left the boat and would try again next day. A bit disappointed we headed back for our home and refreshments. The star turn of the day was a male **Chinese Goshawk** seen well when soaring over the grove.

16th. Again a warm and sunny morning and few birds. This was the last day on the island for the Finnish group. Thomas and Per-Anders headed for waders early in the morning. They were lucky, and back at breakfast they told about a sighting of a **Nordmann's Greenshank**. After an early lunch we left the island together with the Finnish group. A new boat was hired and this time everything worked. On the pier ashore a minibus was waiting for us. The bus got crowded very quickly as not only we were going with it, but also the drivers wife, kids, the boss from the island, his wife... Well away from the harbour, we stopped at several rice ponds and looked for waders, terns and herons. It paid off with a **Long-toed Stint** among other things. After a couple of hours and back in the harbour the old boat, now mended, was waiting for us. To get to it, we had to pass a couple of other boats. Stefan was having some problems and finally he fell with the scope, camera and everything. Some smaller injuries but the equipment was ok, so everything was ok. Back on the island in time for dinner.

17th. Birthday again. The day was spent on searching in the bushes and looking for waders. The island has changed shape during the last days. More leaves on the trees and bushes, and more mosquitoes. Thomas and I tried to get a shower before dinner this day since it had been a hot day. No water. Instead just drying the sweat with the towel and putting on new clothes and hurrying to the dinner. Thomas's birthday was celebrated with Chinese vodka. It is not very good but it was consumed together with the food. The food was very good, though.

18th. New morning and it was warm and windy. Today there were a lot of birds. It was also the hottest day of the trip. 33°C in the shadow. Many nice birds were observed, among them **Yellow Bittern**, **Black Brent**, **Ruddy Crake**, **Swinhoe's Snipe**, **Black-capped Kingfisher**, **Pechora Pipit**, **Yellow-rumped Flycatcher**, **Mugimaki Flycatcher**, **Yellow-bellied Tit**, **White-cheeked Starling** and many other nice birds. After an intense day of bird watching and some discussion with the Chinese there was again water in the showers, and a cool shower after this hot day was really refreshing. Since this was the last day on the island Thomas bought a new bottle of Chinese vodka. Dinner consisted of 8 dishes!

19th. The last day on the island. This was very frustrating since it was a very good morning. Stefan found a thrush, which was unknown to us all. It showed to be a new species for the island and, in fact, the Palearctic fauna region. It was an **Orange-headed Thrush**, a stunning male, which later on was netted and photographed. A lot of other good species this day, e.g. **White-breasted Waterhen**, **Spotted Bush**, **Blunt-winged Warbler** and **Chinese Leaf Warbler**, made the day one of the best. An early lunch was served before we left. The chef had really done it this time and we got a lot of good food. We left the island and well ashore we entered the minibus that would take us to Beijing.

20th. Getting up at the same time as usual. Departure to Badaling for birding a few hours in the morning, that produced e.g. **Stub-tailed and Manchurian Bush Warbler**, **Yellow-streaked Warbler**, **Père David's Laughingthrush**, **Blue magpie**, **Meadow and Eastern Rock Bunting**. The rest of the day was devoted to culture. We first made a visit to the Great Wall, to walk historical land. It was hard to imagine the enormous effort that it has taken to construct the monument, before you have visited

the place. Prior to a visit on the *Gate of Heavenly Peace* and the *Tiananmen Square*, we had some pancakes made by a woman in a very hectic road crossing. However, they were very tasty and we recommend them. On the way to the *Forbidden City*, we saw a man, probably on the way to the illegal bird market. On his carrier he had a cage holding two **Mongolian Larks**. In the evening we visited the most famous restaurant in Beijing and had Beijing duck. Culinary and perfect ends of a very successful travel rich in species.

21st. Departure day. Getting up early to be in time at the airport. Direct flight to Copenhagen took 9 ½ hours. A very pleasing journey had come to an end, and you woke up in Copenhagen with a jerk, windy, drizzle and only 10° C.

Gunilla Larsson

Observations

Little Grebe Smådopping *Tachybaptus ruficollis poggei* Five were seen on mainland trip 16th.

Yellow Bittern Kinesisk dvärgöröddrom *Ixobrychus sinensis* One 18th and 19th.

Schrenck's Bittern Schrencks dvärgöröddrom *Ixobrychus eurhythmus* One as early as 14th

Black-crowned Night Heron Natthäger *Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax* One was seen 9th, 13th, and 19th. Two 18th. In Beijing at least five 20th.

Striated Heron Grönhäger *Butorides striatus amurensis* The only record was one in the dunes on 18th.

Chinese Pond-Heron Bacchushäger *Ardeola bacchus* A maximum of 5 9th. Singles were seen 12-13th.

Great Egret Ägretthäger *Egretta alba* Two 8th, 12th and 13th. Possibly the same individual.

Grey Heron Gråhäger *Ardea cinerea jouyi* Only one individual 9th and 10th.

Purple Heron Purpurhäger *Ardea purpurea manilensis* On 8th a group of 24 migrating south. One on 10th. Also one on mainland trip 16th. There were also four on the island 17th and two 19th.

Brent Goose Prutgås *Branta bernicla nigricans* 70 resting on Moon Island and then migrating north 18th.

Common Shelduck Gravand *Tadorna tadorna* Seen 6 of 14 days on the island. Maximum of 160 10th.

Spot-billed Duck Fläcknäbbsand *Anas poecilorhyncha* Seen every day on the island, maximum over 100.

Garganey Årta *Anas querquedula* Two different birds were seen 7th.

Red-breasted Merganser Småskrake *Mergus serrator* Five 10th and two 11th.

Crested Honey Buzzard Tofsbivvråk *Pernis ptilorhyncus* On 19th there were 19 birds migrating north. In Badaling there were 33 20th.

Black Kite Brun glada *Milvus migrans lineatus* One 18th.

Eastern Marsh-Harrier Brokig kärrhök *Circus spilonotus* Singles were seen almost every day with a maximum of four. Also seen on our mainland visit 16th.

Pied Harrier Svartvit kärrhök *Circus melanoleucus* Seen on 7 days. Mostly singles, but three 8th and two 13th.

Japanese Sparrowhawk Taigahök *Accipiter gularis* Recorded on 10 days with maximum of 15 13th.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk Sparvhök *Accipiter nisus nisosimilis* Singles on 9 days.

Chinese Goshawk Kinesisk hök *Accipiter soloensis* One male 15th.

Eurasian Kestrel Tornfalk *Falco tinnunculus interstinctus* Seen along the road from Beijing 6th.

Amur Falcon Amurfalk *Falco amurensis* Two on 7th, one 9th and 16th. Also two 18th.

Eurasian Hobby Lärkfalk *Falco subbuteo subbuteo* Recorded on 13 days with 1-3 birds.

Peregrine Falcon Pilgrimsfalk *Falco peregrinus* One resting on the mudflats on 10th.

Japanese Quail Japansk vaktel *Coturnix japonica* Recorded on 9 days. Most birds were seen in the beginning of the visit (5-10 birds).

Common Pheasant Fasan *Phasianus colchicus* More than 10 birds seen at Badaling 20th.

Yellow-legged Buttonquail Gulfotad springhöna *Turnix tanki* One flushed in the dunes 13th.

Ballion's Crake Dvärgsumphöna *Porzana pusilla pusilla* Two 14th and one 19th.

Ruddy Crake Rödbrun sumphöna *Porzana fusca* One in the ditch west of the temple 18th.

White-breasted Watherhen Vitbröstad sumphöna *Amaurornis phoenicurus* One flushed from the pond just south the temple 19th.

Common Moorhen Rörhöna *Gallinula chloropus chloropus* Recorded during our transport Beijing-Happy Island 6th. Also seen on the mainland 16th.

Watercock Tupprall *Gallixrex cinerea* Only one 13th in the reeds north of the "Blue village".

Eurasian Oystercatcher Strandskata *Haematopus ostralegus osculans* Seen on 10 days. Maximum of 30 on 16th.

Black-winged Stilt Stytlöpare *Himantopus himantopus himantopus* One 7th and two 15th. More than 10 birds seen on the mainland 16th.

Pied Avocet Skärfläcka *Recurvirostra avosetta* Two 6th and 19th. Nine were seen 11th.

Oriental Pratincole Orientalisk vadarsvala *Glareola maldivarum* Two 7th and 13th. One 10th, 14th and 19th. On our mainland visit we saw four 16th.

Little Ringed Plover Mindre strandpipare *Charadrius dubius curonicus* One 12th.

Kentish Plover Svartbent strandpipare *Charadrius alexandrinus dealbatus* Common on the island.

Lesser Sand Plover Mongolpipare *Charadrius mongolus mongolus/stegmanni* Recorded on 12 days. Maximum of 100 7th. At least 40 on 18th.

Greater Sand Plover Ökenpipare *Charadrius leschenaultii leschenaultii* One 6th, 11th and 18th. Five on 10th.

Pacific Golden Plover Sibirisk tundrapipare *Pluvialis fulva* Only migrating birds. 8 days with maximum of 50 17th. A total of 136 birds.

Grey Plover Kustpipare *Pluvialis squatarola* Seen every day. The highest number was 530 18th.

Grey-headed Lapwing Gråhuvad vipa *Vanellus cinereus* Two 7th. One 8th and 16th.

Great Knot Kolymasnäppa *Calidris tenuirostris* Seen every day. When counted: 500 10th, 3000 11th, 600 14th and 925 18th.

Red Knot Kustsnäppa *Calidris canutus* Seen on 11 days. When counted: 100 10th, 500 11th, 200 14th and 600 18th.

Sanderling Sandlöpare *Calidris alba* Four 10th, 35 11th and 20 14th. Also seen 16th and 17th.

Red-necked Stint Rödhalsad snäppa *Calidris ruficollis* Two 6th, 25 9th, two 10th, 250 11th, 20 14th, five 17th and 25 18th.

Temminck's Stint Mosnäppa *Calidris temminckii* One 9th.

Long-toed Stint Långtåsnäppa *Calidris subminuta* One on the mainland, resting in a shrimp pool, 16th.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper Spetsstjärtad snäppa *Calidris acuminata* A total of 14 during our stay. One 6th, two 7th. Seven 10th and two 11th and 19th.

Curlew Sandpiper Spovsnäppa *Calidris ferruginea* Counted as follow: 10th six, 11th 100, 14th 250, 15th four, 16th and 17th 100. On 18th and 19th there were 75 birds.

Dunlin Kärrsnäppa *Calidris alpina sakhalina* Seen on 11 days. Highest number was 4000 11th. A high number was 2000 17th.

Broad-billed Sandpiper Myrsnäppa *Limicola falcinellus sibirica* On 11th 25 birds roosted on the southwestern mudflat. Five 14th, three 16th, five 17th, six 18th and 3 19th.

Common Snipe Enkelbeckasin *Gallinago gallinago gallinago* Five birds on 4 days.

Pintail Snipe Sibirisk beckasin *Gallinago stenura* Seen on 11 days, 1-5 birds daily.

Swinhoe's Snipe Taigabeckasin *Gallinago megala* One bird 9th and one flushed in the bush south-east of the temple 18th.

Asian Dowitcher Asiatisk beckasinsnäppa *Limnodromus semipalmatus* Seen almost every day. Highest numbers were 750 11th, 600 18th, 250 10th and 200 14th.

Eurasian Woodcock Morkulla *Scolopax rusticola* One 18th.

Black-tailed Godwit Rödspov *Limosa limosa* Seen on 9 days. Highest numbers 11th with 250 birds and 150 7th.

Bar-tailed Godwit Myrspov *Limosa lapponica baueri* Seen every day on the island. When counted: 800 10th, 2000 11th, 400 14th and 485 18th.

Whimbrel Småspov *Numenius phaeopus variegatus* Common among the waders on the southern and southwestern mudflats. Including Eurasian Curlew up to 500 birds seen.

Eurasian Curlew Storspov *Numenius arquata orientalis* Seen almost every day. See Whimbrel.

Far-Eastern Curlew Orientspov *Numenius madagascariensis* Recorded 10 days. Maximum 20 10th. 1-5 birds on the other days.

Spotted Redshank Svartsnäppa *Tringa erythropus* Three records.

Common Redshank Rödbena *Tringa totanus* Common, seen every day.

Marsh Sandpiper Dammsnäppa *Tringa stagnatilis* Only seen on five days, in the beginning of our visit. Fairly common in the ditches west of the mainland harbour.

Common Greenshank Gluttsnäppa *Tringa nebularia* Seen on 12 days. Only counted 18th with 10 birds.

Nordmann's Greenshank Fläckgluttsnäppa *Tringa guttifer* One on 11th and one on 16th, possibly the same individual. Three rested together with a Common Greenshank on 17th. All observations were made on the south-western mudflats and the birds were seen well. We had not expected to see this species. The Finnish group also managed to see one individual. The only known previous record on the island is from spring 1993. Maybe the species is easily overlooked.

Green Sandpiper Skogssnäppa *Tringa ochropus* Singles seen on 9 days.

Wood Sandpiper Grönbenäppa *Tringa glareola* Recorded every day on the island.

Terek Sandpiper Tereksnäppa *Xenus cinereus* No big numbers noted. Highest were 50 18th. Seen almost every day with 5-10, up to 25 birds.

Common Sandpiper Drillsnäppa *Actitis hypoleucos* On the island one 7th and 17th. On the mainland three 16th.

Ruddy Turnstone Roskarl *Arenaria interpres interpres* Only three records. One 10th, five 11th and four 17th.

Relict Gull Reliktmåsar *Larus relictus* On 11th we saw 2-3 birds in the southwest. 14th there were 13 birds, all second year birds (one with more black on the head). 17th five were seen and on 18th four.

Saunders's Gull Mingmåsar *Larus saundersi* Seen every day on the island. A maximum of more than 100 on 10th.

Black-headed Gull Skratmåsar *Larus ridibundus* Seen every day in small numbers. In the end of our visit there were some "migrating" birds in the evenings.

Black-tailed Gull Svartstjärtad måsar *Larus crassirostris* Up to 25 birds were seen 17-18th. Singles on the other days and 20 birds 10th.

Herring Gull Gråtrut *Larus argentatus mongolicus/ vegae* Six birds were seen. One 8th, two 9th, one 10th and two 12th.

Gull-billed Tern Sandtärna *Sterna nilotica affinis/ nilotica* Common, 10-75 birds seen daily.

Caspian Tern Skrântärna *Sterna caspia* One 11th and two 14th

Common Tern Fisktärna *Sterna hirundo longipennis* Seen every day in small numbers. Maximum of 25 17th and 20 11th.

Little Tern Småtärna *Sterna albifrons sinensis* Fairly common, seen all days.

Whiskered Tern Skäggtärna *Chlidonias hybridus hybridus* No heavy migration during our stay on the island. On 8th 18 and 9th 35 birds. Singles 10th, 18th and two 19th. On mainland we saw one 16th.

White-winged Tern Vitvingad tärna *Chlidonias leucopterus* One 10th and 14th. The only migrating flock on the island was 20 19th. On the mainland trip 22 were seen 16th.

Domestic Dove Tamduva *Columba livia* (domest.) Singles were seen on the island. Common on the mainland.

Rufous Turtle Dove Större turturduva *Streptopelia orientalis orientalis* No heavy migration during our stay on the island. Highest number was 50 18th. Seen almost every day in small numbers, the exception was on 18th when flocks were resting.

Large Hawk Cuckoo Större hökgök *Hierococcyx sparverioides* One 8th and one 13th. At Badaling 20th at least five calling birds were observed.

Indian Cuckoo Indisk gök *Cuculus micropterus* One 7th and one 19th on the island. In Beijing one 19th and one at Badaling 20th.

Common Cuckoo Gök *Cuculus canorus canorus* Observed on 8 days on the island. Singles all days except 17th when two were seen.

Horsfield's Cuckoo Taigagök *Cuculus optatus horsfieldi* 9 birds in four days. Five 18th. Also seen at Badaling 20th. A total of only 10 birds during our visit to China is a rather small number.

Lesser Cuckoo Smågök *Cuculus poliocephalus* One bird seen well on the island 12th.

Oriental Scops Owl Orientalisk dvärguv *Otus sunia* Recorded 6 days with one or two birds seen and heard

Brown Hawk Owl Brun spökuggla *Ninox scutulata* One 11th and one 15th.

Grey Nightjar Orientnattskärna *Caprimulgus indicus* Two to three birds 7th. Two 9th. Also one all days in the period 13th-19th. A total of 12 birds.

White-throated Needletail Taggstjärtseglare *Hirundapus caudacutus* Only three. One 8th, one 13th and one 14th.

Common Swift Tornseglare *Apus apus pekinensis* Only recorded in Beijing. Ten 6th and over 50 20th.

Pacific Swift Orientseglare *Apus pacificus* 25 birds on 6 days. Highest number on 8th with 10 birds.

Black-capped Kingfisher Svarthuvad kungsfiskare *Halcyon pileata* One 12th, 13th and 18th.

Common Kingfisher Kungsfiskare *Alcedo atthis bengalensis* Recorded on 8 days on the island, 1-2 birds involved. Also seen on the mainland 16th.

Dollarbird Rödnäbbad blåkråka *Eurystomus orientalis* One 14th.

Eurasian Hoopoe Härfågel *Upupa epops saturata* Seen on 8 days. Often two birds involved.

Eurasian Wryneck Göktyta *Jynx torquilla chinensis* Six birds on 5 days

Grey-headed Woodpecker Gråspett *Picus canus jessoensis* Only observed on the mainland 16th and at Beijing.

Great Spotted Woodpecker Större hackspett *Dendrocopos major brevirostris* One on the mainland 16th and one at Badaling 20th.

Rufous-bellied Woodpecker Rostbukspett *Dendrocopos hyperythrus* Seen on 11 days. On 7th five birds. The other days 1-2 birds.

Asian Short-toed Lark Dvärglärka *Calandrella rufescens cheleensis* Breeding birds on the island foremost in the north-western part of the island. A few individuals observed every day.

Sand Martin Backsvala *Riparia riparia diluta/ijimae* On the island only two observations. Two 8th and 9th. On the mainland one 16th.

Barn Swallow Ladusvala *Hirundo rustica gutturalis* Common.

Red-rumped Swallow Rostgumpsvala *Hirundo daurica japonica* Common.

Richard's Pipit Större piplärka *Anthus richardi ussuriensis/sinensis/dauricus*

Migrating birds:

7.5	8.5	9.5	10.5	11.5	12.5	13.5	14.5	15.5	16.5	17.5	18.5	19.5
25-30	7-8	15	6	10	10	15	5	5	10	8	5	10

Blyth's Pipit Mongolpiplärka *Anthus godlewskii*

Migrating birds:

7.5	8.5	9.5	10.5	11.5	12.5	13.5	14.5	15.5	16.5	17.5	18.5	19.5
0	0	0	1	1	1	2	2	1	0	2	0	3

Olive-backed Pipit Sibirisk piplärka *Anthus hodgsoni yunnanensis*

Migrating birds:

6.5	7.5	8.5	9.5	10.5	11.5	12.5	13.5	14.5	15.5	16.5	17.5	18.5	19.5
3	>40	>20	>20	>20	>20	30	20	10	10	5	5	5	20

Pechora Pipit Tundrapiplärka *Anthus gustavi gustavi/menzbieri* Only one 18th.

Red-throated Pipit Rödstrupig piplärka *Anthus cervinus* Two 7th, one 8th and 9th. Three 10th and one 13th.

Forest Wagtail Trädärkla *Dendronanthus indicus* The first observation 13th with two birds, seen daily after that with 1-4 birds.

Yellow Wagtail Gulärta *Motacilla flava* Seen every day on the island. Due to the lack of good resting habitats very few were seen under good conditions. One *macronyx* on 14th and one *plexa* on 7th were the only subspecies identified.

Grey Wagtail Forsärta *Motacilla cinerea robusta*

Migrating birds:

7.5	8.5	9.5	10.5	11.5	12.5	13.5	14.5	15.5	16.5	17.5	18.5	19.5
1	2	1	1	3	2	5	5	3	0	1	0	2

One bird also seen at Badaling 20th.

White Wagtail Sädesärta *Motacilla alba* Recorded on 7 days 1-2 birds. None was seen well making subspecific identification possible.

Ashy Minivet Grå minivett *Pericrocotus divaricatus* Good numbers with observations on 5 days. One 9th and 10th. 1-3 birds 13th and one 15th and 16th.

Chinese Bulbul Kinabulbyl *Pycnonotus sinensis* Seen every day. The maximum was 20 8th.

Rufous-tailed Robin Drillnäktergal *Luscinia sibilans* One 9th. Two 13-14th probably the same. One 16th and 17th. During the fall 18th five birds were recorded. On 19th still one left.

Siberian Rubythroat Rubinnäktergal *Luscinia calliope*

Counted birds on the island:

7.5	8.5	9.5	10.5	11.5	12.5	13.5	14.5	15.5	16.5	17.5	18.5	19.5
10-15	2	5	0	0	0	20	50	15	10	10	10	10

Bluethroat Blåhake *Luscinia svecica svecica* Observed on 10 days with 1-5 birds, except 9th when there were 20 birds involved.

Siberian Blue Robin Blånäktergal *Luscinia cyane*

Counted birds on the island:

7.5	8.5	9.5	10.5	11.5	12.5	13.5	14.5	15.5	16.5	17.5	18.5	19.5
15	4-5	50	5	1	2	10	>100	25	15	15	15	10

Red-flanked Bluetail Blåstjärt *Tarsiger cyanurus cyanurus* Two on 7th and one on 8th. Also seen on 13th, a bird with a broken leg.

Daurian Redstart Svartryggad rödstjärt *Phoenicurus aureus aureus* One female 8th. Two 9th. One male 11th-15th. At Badaling, at least 10 singing males were seen on 20th.

Common Stonechat Svarthakad buskskvätta *Saxicola torquata stejnegeri*

Counted birds on the island:

6.5	7.5	8.5	9.5	10.5	11.5	12.5	13.5	14.5	15.5	16.5	17.5	18.5	19.5
25	70	50	300	50	30	15	50	50	3	1	8	10	5

Grey Bushchat Grå buskskvätta *Saxicola ferrea* One female rested at the ditch west to the temple 7th-14th.

White-throated Rock Thrush Vitstrupig stentrast *Monticola gularis* Seen almost every day with one or two birds involved. The observations probably mostly concerned different birds. Five birds were the highest number seen 17th.

Blue Rock Thrush Blåtrast *Monticola solitarius philippensis* One local pair at the temple during our stay. Some migrating birds were five 13th, ten 18th, and five 19th.

White's Thrush Guldtrast *Zoothera dauma aurea/toratugumi*

Counted birds on the island:

7.5	8.5	9.5	10.5	11.5	12.5	13.5	14.5	15.5	16.5	17.5	18.5	19.5
8	1-2	20	2	0	1	5	2	1	0	3	20	2

Siberian Thrush Sibirisk trast *Zoothera sibirica* Recorded on nine days as follows: one male 7th, two male and one female 9th, one male 11th-13th. One male and one female 15th, one female 16th, three 17th and 1 male 18th. A total of 11-14 birds involved.

Orange-headed Thrush Orangehuvad trast *Zoothera citrina* This exclusive thrush was found on one of the small paths in the western part of the main grove near one of the ditches in the morning 19th. The bird was later mist-netted and photographed. The species is an uncommon breeder in southern China. The breeding area reaches in southern Anhui (subspecies *courtsisi*) north of Yangtze and will then reach the Palearctic region according to Inskipp et al (1996). According to others it is the first record in the Palearctic fauna region of this species!

In Fujian and Guangdong the subspecies *melli* breeds. It is probably a short-migrator. For the northernmost subspecies, *courtsisi*, it is not known if it is a migrator, but according to wing measurements it ought to be a migrator. Head and throat is brownish in *courtsisi* and head reddish in *melli* (Lars Larsson, pers. com.).

Grey-backed Thrush Gråryggad trast *Turdus hortulorum* Six 9th and 3 18th.

Pale Thrush Amurtrast *Turdus pallidus* One 7th, 8th and 9th. Possibly one individual involved.

Eye-browed Thrush Gråhalsad trast *Turdus obscurus* Two birds were seen at our arrival on the island 6th.

Counted birds on the island:

6.5	7.5	8.5	9.5	10.5	11.5	12.5	13.5	14.5	15.5	16.5	17.5	18.5	19.5
2	25-30	0	25	0	10	5	20	15	10	5	10	20	10

Dusky Thrush Bruntrast *Turdus naumanni* A total of 24 birds on 7 days. Maximum was ten 18th and 7 7th. Well seen birds were one *naumanni* and two *eunomus* 7th. One *naumanni* 9th and 12th.

Chinese Thrush Kinatrast *Turdus mupinensis* One 13th, 14th and 17th. Possibly one individual involved.

Spotted Bush Warbler Fläckig smygsångare *Bradypterus thoracicus thoracicus* One seen very well 19th.

Asian Stubtail Warbler Manchurisk stubbstjärt *Urosphena squameiceps* Only recorded at Badaling. 20 singing birds on 20th

Manchurian Bush Warbler Japansk cettia *Cettia (diphone) canturians* One 10th and 12th. One singing bird 14th was very greyish and looked like a Garden Warbler on the back. Is it possible that *canturians* male looks like the nominate sometimes? We also had a singing bird at Badaling on 20th.

Fan-tailed Warbler Grässångare *Cisticola juncidis tinnabulans* Common breeder on the island.

Chinese Hill Warbler Kinesisk snårsångare *Rhopophilus pekinensis* Five to 10 birds at Badaling 20th.

Lanceolated Warbler Träsksångare *Locustella lanceolata* A rather early bird 7th followed by two not until 13th and three 14th. Two 18th and at least 10 19th.

Black-browed Reed Warbler Svartbrynad rörsångare *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps* The first (five) arrived 9th. One 10th. Five 14th, 15th and 17th. At least 25 18th and 15 19th.

Blunt-winged Warbler Kortvingad rörsångare *Acrocephalus concinens* One well examined and photographed bird in the net 19th.

Oriental Reed Warbler Orientalisk trastsångare *Acrocephalus orientalis*

Counted birds on the island:

7.5	8.5	9.5	10.5	11.5	12.5	13.5	14.5	15.5	16.5	17.5	18.5	19.5
0	0	2	1	1	0	1	3	1	3	3	10	10

On the mainland there were at least 15 singing birds 16th.

Thick-billed Warbler Tjocknäbbad sångare *Acrocephalus aedon* 15 18th and 25 19th.

Blyth's Leaf Warbler Mindre kronsångare *Phylloscopus reguloides* One 13th and two 17th, 18th and 19th. All probably different birds.

Eastern Crowned Warbler Östlig kronsångare *Phylloscopus coronatus* Recorded on 9 days. First one 7th and 1-2 9th. One on 11th. Ten birds 13th followed by one 14th and 2 15th. During the fall 18th and 19th only one respectively three birds seen. At Badaling we heard at least 15 singing males 20th.

Pale-legged Leaf Warbler Drillsångare *Phylloscopus tenellipes* Observed on 7 days. One 10th followed by one 13th. Two 14th and a maximum of four 15th. One 16th, 17th and 19th.

Two-barred Greenish Warbler Östlig lundsångare *Phylloscopus trochiloides plumbeitarsus* Recorded on 7 days with 1-2 birds daily. Four 18th and five 19th. Common at Badaling 20th with >50 birds.

Arctic Warbler Nordsångare *Phylloscopus borealis borealis* Only recorded at the end of our visit. One bird 17th was the first, even though the Finnish group had observed it earlier. One 18th and two 19th. At least 25 birds seen at Badaling 20th.

Pallas's Warbler Kungsfågelsångare *Phylloscopus proregulus proregulus* During the fall 7th and 9th very common, Pallas's "everywhere". Recorded every day with one top in the beginning and one top in the end of our stay on the island.

Chinese Leaf Warbler Kinesisk sångare *Phylloscopus yunnanensis* One bird was found calling 12th and was seen well by many birders. One bird in a groove west of the harbour on the mainland was also found calling 16th. The third on our trip was a bird caught in the net 19th.

Yellow-browed Warbler Taigasångare *Phylloscopus inornatus* Appearance much as for Pallas's Warbler.

Radde's Warbler Videsångare *Phylloscopus schwarzi*

Counted birds on the island:

7.5	8.5	9.5	10.5	11.5	12.5	13.5	14.5	15.5	16.5	17.5	18.5	19.5
30	5	50	5	1	5-10	30	20	10	25	20	200	50

Yellow-streaked Warbler Gulstreckad sångare *Phylloscopus armandii* Ten singing birds at Badaling 20th.

Dusky Warbler Brunsångare *Phylloscopus fuscatus fuscatus*

Counted birds on the island:

7.5	8.5	9.5	10.5	11.5	12.5	13.5	14.5	15.5	16.5	17.5	18.5	19.5
15	10	30	10	5-6	15	50	200	50	25	20	75	100

Dark-sided Flycatcher Sibirisk flugsnappare *Muscicapa sibirica* One 17th, two 18th, five 19th. At Badaling also five 20th.

Grey-streaked Flycatcher Streckad flugsnappare *Muscicapa griseisticta* Two 14th, one 15th and 16th. Also one 19th.

Asian Brown Flycatcher Glasögonflugsnappare *Muscicapa dauurica*

Counted birds on the island:

7.5	8.5	9.5	10.5	11.5	12.5	13.5	14.5	15.5	16.5	17.5	18.5	19.5
1	1	1	0	1	0	3	10	10	10	15	15	25

Also seen at Badaling with ten birds 20th.

Red-throated Flycatcher Mindre flugsnappare *Ficedula parva albicilla*

Counted birds on the island:

7.5	8.5	9.5	10.5	11.5	12.5	13.5	14.5	15.5	16.5	17.5	18.5	19.5
10	>10	40	5	5	5	10	10	8	10	20	20	20

Mugimaki Flycatcher Mugimakiflugsnappare *Ficedula mugimaki* One 7th, one female 9th. Four male and three female 15th. Two 17th and one 18th. A total of 12 birds is a rather good number.

Yellow-rumped Flycatcher Vitbrynad narcissflugsnappare *Ficedula zanthopygia*

Counted birds on the island:

7.5	8.5	9.5	10.5	11.5	12.5	13.5	14.5	15.5	16.5	17.5	18.5	19.5
3	1	3	0	0	1	3	2	2	2	2	5	5

Unusually many individuals, maximum of 39 birds on the island. Also seen at Badaling 20th, with 20 birds.

Père David's Laughingthrush Nordlig fnittertrast *Garrulax davidi* Five singing and seen birds at Badaling 20th.

Long-tailed Tit Stjärtmes *Aegithalos caudatus vinaceus* Two at Badaling 20th.

Marsh Tit Entita *Parus palustris hellmayri* Recorded at Badaling 20th.

Willow Tit Talltita *Parus montanus stoetzneri* 20 at Badaling 20th

Yellow-bellied Tit Mandarinmes *Parus venustus* One 8th, three 18th on the island. In Badaling ten birds were seen 20th.

Great Tit Talgoxe *Parus major minor* At least three at Badaling 20th.

Penduline Tit Pungmes *Remiz pendulinus consobrinus*

Migrating birds:

7.5	8.5	9.5	10.5	11.5	12.5	13.5	14.5	15.5	16.5	17.5	18.5	19.5
0	0	50	10	0	30	50	25	20	15	10	35	10

Chestnut-flanked White-eye Brunsidig glasögonfågel *Zosterops erythropleurus* In the flocks of unidentified White-eyes we found the following birds: one 7th, two 11th, five 14th, one 15th, 15 18th and five 19th. No Japanese White-eyes were identified during our visit to China despite careful checking.

White-eye sp. Obest. glasögonfågel *Zosterops sp.* 20-150 migrating birds daily.

Black-naped Oriole Svartnackad gylling *Oriolus chinensis* Seen on 9 days on the island with 1-3 birds. On 19th ten birds seen.

Brown Shrike Brun törnskata *Lanius cristatus*

Counted birds on the island:

6.5	7.5	8.5	9.5	10.5	11.5	12.5	13.5	14.5	15.5	16.5	17.5	18.5	19.5
5	20-25	20	100	15	10	20	200	200	30	20	50	500	200

Black Drongo Svart drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus* One 18th and 4 19th. Also recorded at Badaling 20th with five birds.

Hair-crested Drongo Lydrongo *Dicrurus hottentottus* Three 11th, one 12th and 14th.

Eurasian Jay Nötskrika *Garrulus glandarius pekinensis* Two at Badaling 20th.

Blue Magpie Rödnäbbad blåskata *Urocissa erythrorhyncha* Five at Badaling 20th.

Azure-winged Magpie Blåskata *Cyanopica cyana interposita* Recorded at Beijing 6th and 20th and at Badaling 20th.

Eurasian Magpie Skata *Pica pica sericea* Outside the Beijing-area and during transportation recorded on the island 8th and 19th with one bird.

Daurian Jackdaw Klippkaja *Corvus dauuricus* Three on 13th flying south. One "light morph" and two dark.

Large-billed Crow Djungelkråka *Corvus macrorhynchos* Common at Beijing and at Badaling

Daurian Starling Amurstare *Sturnus sturninus*

Counted birds on the island:

7.5	8.5	9.5	10.5	11.5	12.5	13.5	14.5	15.5	16.5	17.5	18.5	19.5
0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	2	12	0

White-cheeked Starling Gråstare *Sturnus cineraceus* Two 8th and one 18th.

Tree-Sparrow Pilfink *Passer montanus saturatus* Common.

Brambling Bergfink *Fringilla montifringilla* One 12th.

Oriental Greenfinch Orientgrönfink *Carduelis sinica* Two 11th and one 12th and 16th. At Badaling (Great Wall) we saw five 20th.

Eurasian Siskin Grönsiska *Carduelis spinus* One 9th.

Common Crossbill Mindre korsnäbb *Loxia curvirostra* Four 13th.

Common Rosefinch Rosenfink *Carpodacus erythrinus grebnitskii*

Counted birds on the island:

7.5	8.5	9.5	10.5	11.5	12.5	13.5	14.5	15.5	16.5	17.5	18.5	19.5
5	3-4	10	5	10	10	10	10	12	15	15	20	50

Chinese Grosbeak Mindre maskstenknäck *Eophona migratoria* 1-5 birds on 11 days.

Japanese Grosbeak Större maskstenknäck *Eophona personata* One 13th, 15th, 17th and 18th. Two 16th.

Hawfinch Stenknäck *Coccothraustes coccothraustes coccothraustes* 1-5 birds on 11 days.

Black-faced Bunting Gråhuvad sparv *Emberiza spodocephala* Seen every day. On 9th some migrating birds.

Eastern Rock-Bunting Mongolsparv *Emberiza godlewskii omissa* One on the island 8th. In Badaling at least 15 birds 20th.

Meadow Bunting Ängssparv *Emberiza cioides* Ten at Badaling 20th.

Chestnut-eared Bunting Rödkindad sparv *Emberiza fucata* 1-3 birds on 7 days on the island.

Yellow-throated Bunting Praktsparv *Emberiza elegans* One 9th and 12th. One pair 19th.

Yellow-browed Bunting Gulbrynad sparv *Emberiza chrysophrys*

Counted birds on the island:

7.5	8.5	9.5	10.5	11.5	12.5	13.5	14.5	15.5	16.5	17.5	18.5	19.5
10	1	10	5	10	5	5	3	2	1	5	2	0

On 7th and 9th we had a lot of "tic-buntings" migrating. At least 7th these were probably mostly Yellow-browed.

Tristram's Bunting Tristramsparv *Emberiza tristrami*

Counted birds on the island:

7.5	8.5	9.5	10.5	11.5	12.5	13.5	14.5	15.5	16.5	17.5	18.5	19.5
6	15	10	3	0	4	0	1	3	2	1	0	3

Little Bunting Dvärgsparv *Emberiza pusilla* There was heavy migration on 7th, but also on 11th. Recorded every day in good numbers.

Chestnut Bunting Rödbrun sparv *Emberiza rutila*

Counted birds on the island:

7.5	8.5	9.5	10.5	11.5	12.5	13.5	14.5	15.5	16.5	17.5	18.5	19.5
0	2	1	3	10	5	10	2-3	20	1	2	5	2

On 11th and 15th probably a great part of the migrating "tic-buntings" belonged to this species.

Yellow-breasted Bunting Gyllensparv *Emberiza aureola aureola/ornata* Seen every day with 1-10 birds. On 15th the majority of the migrating "tic-buntings" were this species.

Pallas's Reed Bunting Dvärgsävsparr *Emberiza pallasii* Two 7th and two 11th is a rather poor number.

Japanese Reed Bunting Amursävsparr *Emberiza yessoensis* Five 7th, two 9th and 10th. Ten 11th. One 12th and 13th. Finally three 14th.

Birds netted on Happy Island

One purpose of our visit to Happy Island was to catch birds to take biometry, photo documentation and to collect samples for DNA analysis. We had Chinese permission to perform these investigations. We mainly caught birds during the last three days.

Almost 500 birds were examined. Following is a quick-list of the birds caught 9th-19th.

Japanese Sparrowhawk	1	Two-barred Greenish Warbler	4
Black-capped Kingfisher	1	Arctic Warbler	1
Olive-backed Pipit	1	Pallas's Warbler	66
Roufus-tailed Robin	1	Yellow-browed Warbler	60
Siberian Rubythroat	25	Radde's Warbler	80
Bluethroat	3	Dusky Warbler	64
Siberian Blue Robin	39	Asian Brown Flycatcher	6
White-throated Thrush	2	Red-breasted Flycatcher	5
White's Thrush	15	Mugimaki Flycatcher	1
Orange-headed Thrush	1	Yellow-rumped Flycatcher	4
Grey-backed Thrush	2	Black-naped Oriole	1
Black-browed Reed Warbler	2	Brown Shrike	11
Blunt-winged Warbler	1	Black-faced Bunting	1
Thick-billed Warbler	5	Chestnut-eared Bunting	1
Eastern Crowned Warbler	4	Tristrams Bunting	2
Blyth's Leaf Warbler	2	Little Bunting	4
Chinese Leaf Warbler	1		
