

# Birding Beijing

## YEYAHU Nature Reserve, Yanqing County, Beijing

*Last Update: 12 October 2013*

### Overview

Yeyahu (Wild Duck Lake) National Wetland Reserve is one of the premier birding locations in Beijing Municipality. It is a great all-year round location but is particularly good in spring and autumn. It can produce cranes, geese, duck, raptors, buntings, warblers and bitterns. Just about anything can turn up!



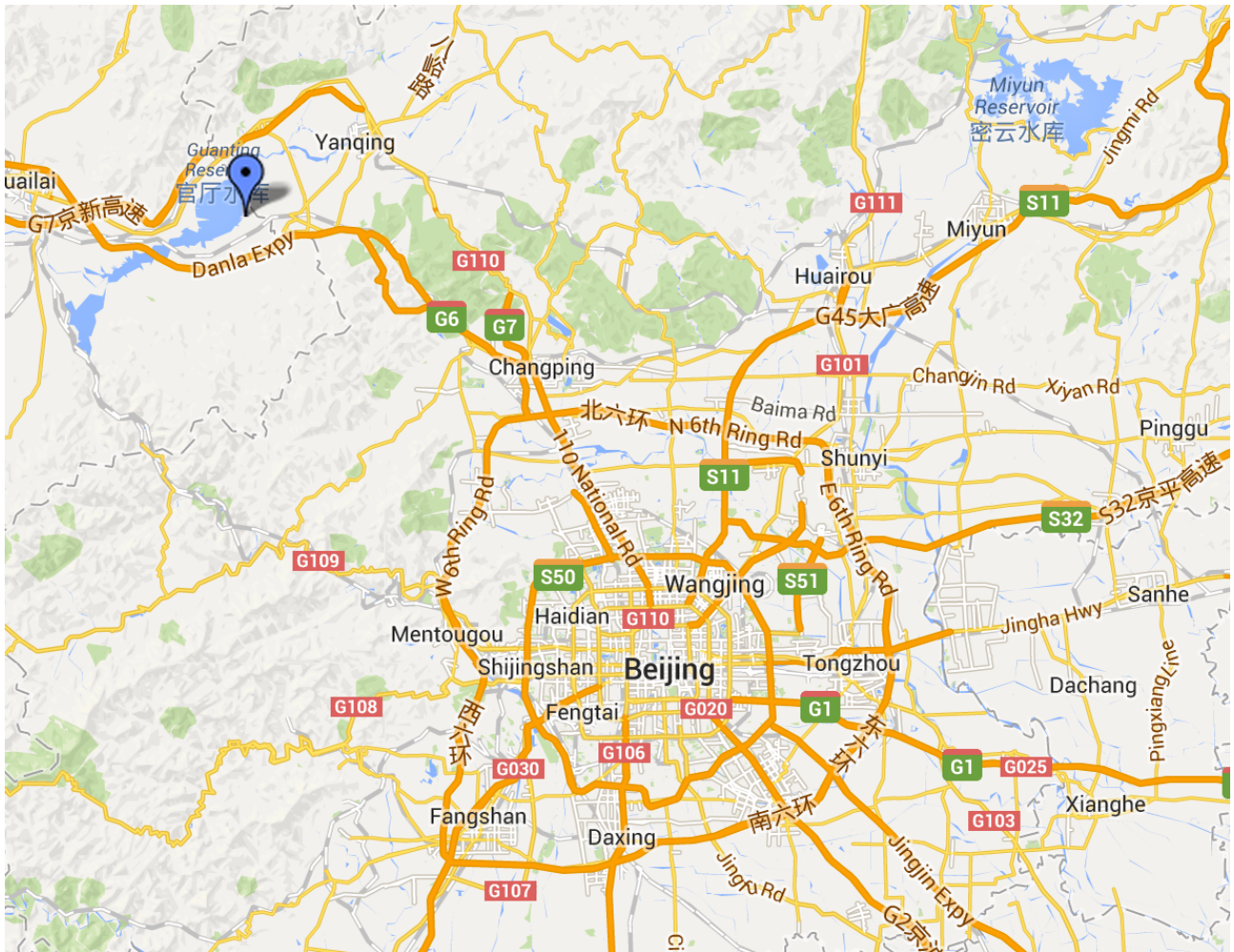
*“Eagle Field” at Yeyahu Nature Reserve. This hide, on the northern part of the reserve and overlooking the reservoir, is a great place from where to watch raptors and duck.*

*The new tower hide at Yeyahu Nature Reserve, offering a superb overview of the area and a great place for visible migration*



# Birding Beijing

## Location



## Directions

By Public Transport: take the bus 919 from Deshengmen (north 2<sup>nd</sup> ring road) to Yanqing (journey time 2-2.5 hours, depending on traffic). Cost is Yuan 13 to Yanqing. 919 buses from Beijing begin at 0545 each morning and continuously thereafter (the buses leave as soon as they are full). From Yanqing, hire a local taxi to Yeyahu. Journey time should be around 20 minutes and (return) cost around Yuan 70-80 Yuan. Remember to arrange a time for your return pick up back to Yanqing bus station. The last bus (also 919) from Yanqing bus station to Beijing Deshengmen is around 6pm.

By Car: take the G6 (Badaling Expressway) northwest out of Beijing. Follow this road for around 60km over the mountains, through a series of tunnels and past Badaling Great Wall. As you begin to descend, take the exit signposted "Xikang Expressway" (this is the junction immediately after that for Yanqing City Area). After going through the tollbooth (toll is Yuan 35 at the time of writing), continue straight over a railway line and through a set of traffic lights. After about 1-2 km past the traffic lights, turn left (there is a brown sign indicating many tourist attractions, including "Widgeon Lake", an alternative bname for Yeyahu Nature Reserve). After turning left, follow the road around to the right and you

## Birding Beijing

immediately come to a set of traffic lights with a petrol station on your right. At these lights go straight on. Follow this road straight until you see a brown sign to “Widgeon Lake”. Follow this sign by turning left and, after around 2km, you will see the large gated entrance to Yeyahu NR. Park in the car park and walk to the ticket office. Entrance fee is 50 Yuan per person and you may need to pay 5 Yuan for the car when you leave. Note that Yeyahu NR can be a busy tourist attraction from May to September. It is advisable to arrive early to cover the boardwalk area before the bulk of the tourists arrive. Disturbance is much less of a problem in winter.

It is possible to buy drinks and snacks at Yeyahu NR and there is also a restaurant but it's opening times are intermittent, so don't rely on it.

Note also that the altitude of Yeyahu NR is around 500m (versus 50m for central Beijing). Combined with the urban heat effect, Yeyahu in the early mornings can be around 10 degrees Celsius cooler than central Beijing, often exacerbated by a brisk NW breeze. Ensure to take appropriate clothing.



# Birding Beijing

## Map of Yeyahu NR



### Key to map

There is a circular walk around the lake and a boardwalk runs across the middle. The boardwalk can be very good for warblers, small bitterns, crakes and rails in late May/early June and again in September. The huge tower hide is excellent for visible migration, especially raptors, and the newly flooded areas to the north are superb for duck (esp Baikal Teal in April and October). The hide overlooking the reservoir to the north can also be good for raptors and duck.

# Birding Beijing

## My personal species list for Ma Chang/Yeyahu NR

Status: R=Resident; P=Passage Migrant; S=Summer Visitor; W=Winter Visitor; V=Vagrant

Species	Status	Comments
Daurian Partridge	R	Scarce resident. Personally I have only seen it in winter at Ma Chang.
Japanese Quail	P, W	Relatively common on passage and a few winter. Possibly a breeder.
Common Pheasant	R	
Mute Swan	P	Rare passage migrant (I have only seen it once in November 2012)
Whooper Swan	P,W	
Tundra Swan	P,W	
Swan Goose	W	From late October to early April
Bean Goose	P,W	Mostly a passage migrant with the peaks in late October/early November and again in late March/early April
Lesser White-fronted Goose	V	Rare. I have only seen once in Spring.
Ruddy Shelduck	P, W	
Common Shelduck	P	
Mandarin Duck	S	
Gadwall	P	
Falcated Duck	P	Passage migrant from late March to May and from September to November.
Eurasian Wigeon	P	
Mallard	R, P	
Spot-billed Duck	P, S	
Nothern Shoveler	P	
Nothern Pintail	P	
Garganey	P	
Baikal Teal	P	Passage migrant from late March to May and again from mid-September to November
Eurasian Teal	P	
Red-crested Pochard	P	
Common Pochard	P	
Ferruginous Pochard	P, S	Possibly now a breeder; 20+ seen in June and July

## Birding Beijing

Baer's Pochard	P	Rare passage migrant (late March/early April and again in October)
Tufted Duck	P	
Common Goldeneye	P, W	
Smew	P, W	
Red-breasted Merganser	P	
Common Merganser	P, W	
Eurasian Wryneck	P	
Grey-capped Woodpecker	R	
Great Spotted Woodpecker	R	
Grey-headed Woodpecker	R	
Common Hoopoe	P, S, W	
Common Kingfisher	S	
Black-capped Kingfisher	P	Scarce passage migrant
Indian Cuckoo	S	Commonly heard in Spring (late April and May)
Common Cuckoo	S	
Common Swift	P	
Fork-tailed Swift	P	
Eurasian Eagle Owl	W	
Little Owl	P, R	
Long-eared Owl	P, W	
Short-eared Owl	P	
Rock Pigeon	R	
Oriental Turtle Dove	P	
Spotted Dove	R	
Eurasian Collared Dove	R	
Great Bustard	P, W	Passage migrant and winter visitor (late October and November and March and early April the best times)
White-naped Crane	P	Passage migrant and occasional winter visitor
Common Crane	P, W	
Hooded Crane	P	
Baillon's Crake	P	Passage migrant in late May and early June
Ruddy-breasted Crake	P, S	Passage migrant and probable breeder
Common Moorhen	S	
Common Coot	S	
Common Snipe	P	
Black-tailed Godwit	P	
Whimbrel	P	
Eurasian Curlew	P	
Spotted Redshank	P	
Common Redshank	P	
Marsh Sandpiper	P	

## Birding Beijing

Common Greenshank	P	
Green Sandpiper	P	
Wood Sandpiper	P	
Common Sandpiper	P	
Red-necked Stint	P	
Temminck's Stint	P	
Curlew Sandpiper	P	
Ruff	P	Rare passage migrant
Pheasant-tailed Jacana	V	Vagrant with just one record
Black-winged Stilt	P	
Pied Avocet	P	
Pacific Golden Plover	P	
Grey Plover	P	
Little Ringed Plover	P, S	
Kentish Plover	P	
Greater Sand Plover	P	
Oriental Plover	P	Regular passage migrant from late March with the peak in early to mid-April
Northern Lapwing	P, S	
Grey-headed Lapwing	P	
Oriental Pratincole	P	
Mew Gull	P	
Glaucous Gull	V	
Heuglin's Gull	V	
Mongolian Gull	P	
Pallas's Gull	P	Rare on passage
Brown-headed Gull	V	
Common Black-headed Gull	P	
Relict Gull	P	Scarce in late March and early April; rare in autumn
Little Gull	V	
Gull-billed Tern	P	
Caspian Tern	P	
Common Tern	S	
Little Tern	S	
Whiskered Tern	P	
White-winged Tern	P	
Osprey	P	
Oriental Honey-buzzard	P	
Black-eared Kite	P	
White-tailed Sea Eagle	W	
Short-toed Snake Eagle	P	April and May and again in September and October
Eastern Marsh Harrier	S	
Northern Harrier	P, W	
Pied Harrier	P	
Japanese Sparrowhawk	P	
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	P	

## Birding Beijing

Northern Goshawk	P	
Common Buzzard	P	
Upland Buzzard	P, W	Regular in winter
Rough-legged Buzzard	W	Scarce in winter
Greater Spotted Eagle	P	Regular in April and May and again in late September and October
Steppe Eagle	P	Scarce on passage
Eastern Imperial Eagle	P	Scarce on passage
Golden Eagle	R	Breeds in the mountains but rarely encountered at Ma Chang
Booted Eagle	V	
Lesser Kestrel	P	
Common Kestrel	R	
Amur Falcon	P, S	
Merlin	P, W	
Eurasian Hobby	P, S	
Saker Falcon	P, W	
Peregrine Falcon	P	
Little Grebe	S	
Great Crested Grebe	S	
Horned Grebe	P	
Black-necked Grebe	P	
Great Cormorant	P	
Little Egret	P, S	
Grey Heron	P, S	
Purple Heron	P, S	
Great Egret	P	
Cattle Egret	P	
Chinese Pond Heron	P, S	
Striated Heron	P	
Black-crowned Night Heron	P, S	
Yellow Bittern	P, S	
Von Schrenck's Bittern	P, S	
Black Bittern	V	
Great Bittern	P	
Eurasian Spoonbill	P	
Great White Pelican	V	
Dalmatian Pelican	V	
Black Stork	P	
Oriental Stork	P	
Tiger Shrike	P	
Bull-headed Shrike	P	
Brown Shrike	P	
Chinese Grey Shrike	P, W	
Red-billed Blue Magpie	R	
Azure-winged Magpie	R	
Common Magpie	R	

## Birding Beijing

Daurian Jackdaw	P	
Rook	P	
Carrion Crow	P, R	
Large-billed Crow	P, R	
Black-naped Oriole	P	
Black Drongo	P	
Bohemian Waxwing	P	
Japanese Waxwing	P	
Red-throated Thrush	P	
Black-throated Thrush	P	
Naumann's Thrush	P	
Dusky Thrush	P	
Grey-streaked Flycatcher	P	
Dark-sided Flycatcher	P	
Asian Brown Flycatcher	P	
Yellow-rumped Flycatcher	P	
Taiga Flycatcher	P	
Siberian Rubythroat	P	
Bluethroat	P	
Red-flanked Bluetail	P	
Daurian Redstart	P	
Common Stonechat	P	
Desert Wheatear	V	
Red-billed Starling	P	
Purple-backed Starling	P	
Common Starling	P, W	
White-cheeked Starling	R	
Crested Myna	P	
Winter Wren	P, W	
Chinese Penduline Tit	P, S, W	Breeds at Yeyahu NR
Marsh Tit	R	
Yellow-bellied Tit	P	
Great Tit	R	
Silver-throated Tit	P, W	
Sand Martin	P	
Eurasian Crag Martin	P	
Barn Swallow	P	
Red-rumped Swallow	P	
Light-vented Bulbul	R	
Zitting Cisticola	P, S	
Chinese Hill Babbler	R	
Chestnut-flanked White-eye	P	
David's Bush Warbler	P	
Lanceolated Warbler	P	
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler	P	Late May/early June and late August/early September
Marsh Grassbird	V	
Black-browed Reed Warbler	P, S	

## Birding Beijing

Blunt-winged Warbler	P, S	
Oriental Reed Warbler	S	
Thick-billed Warbler	P	
Dusky Warbler	P	
Radde's Warbler	P	
Pallas's Leaf Warbler	P, W	
Yellow-browed Warbler	P	
Arctic Warbler	P	
Two-barred Warbler	P	
Eastern Crowned Warbler	P	
Plain Laughingthrush	W	
Bearded Reedling	P	
Vinous-throated Parrotbill	R	
Mongolian Lark	P, W	Scarce winter visitor
Great Short-toed Lark	P	
Asian Short-toed Lark	P, S, W	
Crested Lark	P	
Eurasian Skylark	P, W	
Horned Lark	P, W	Scarce winter visitor
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	R	
White Wagtail	P, S	
Citrine Wagtail	P	
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	P	
Grey Wagtail	P	
Richard's Pipit	P, S	
Blyth's Pipit	P	Regular in small numbers in spring (late April and first half of May) and autumn (September)
Olive-backed Pipit	P	
Red-throated Pipit	P	
Water Pipit	P, W	
Buff-bellied Pipit	P	
Siberian Accentor	P, W	Regular in small numbers in winter
Brambling	P, W	
Grey-capped Greenfinch	R	
Long-tailed Rosefinch	P, W	Scarce
Common Rosefinch	P	
Hawfinch	P, W	
Yellow-billed Grosbeak	P	
Pine Bunting	P, W	
Godlewski's Bunting	P, W	
Meadow Bunting	P, W	
Tristram's Bunting	P	
Chestnut-eared Bunting	P	
Little Bunting	P, W	
Rustic Bunting	P	
Yellow-throated Bunting	P, W	

## Birding Beijing

Yellow-breasted Bunting	P	
Black-faced Bunting	P	
Pallas's Bunting	P, W	Common in winter
Common Reed Bunting	P	
Japanese Reed Bunting	P, W	Scarce in winter and on passage
Lapland Bunting	W	

