

The Birds of the Wenyu



Beijing's Mother River

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Introduction

In the meeting of the Zoological Society of London on the 22nd November 1842, John Gould (1804-81) presented what was described in the Society's proceedings as a "new species of Parrot"¹. The impressively marked bird had been collected on the Marquesas Islands – a remote spot of the Pacific Ocean that would become part of French Polynesia. The members of the Society present at that meeting would have undoubtedly been impressed by yet another of the rare, exotic gems that Gould had a habit of pulling out of his seemingly bottomless hat.

Next up in this Victorian frontiers-of-ornithology 'show and tell' was Hugh Edwin Strickland (1811-53). The birds he spoke about² were quite a bit closer to home, although many were every bit as exotic as Gould's Polynesian parrot. Strickland, instead of sourcing his specimens from the far corners of the Earth, had simply popped across London to Hyde Park Corner with his note book.

There, causing quite a stir, was an exhibition of "*Ten Thousand Chinese Things*", displayed in a purpose-built "*summer house*" whose design was, according to The Illustrated London News³, "*usual in the gardens of the wealthy, in the southern provinces of China*". This Chinese pavilion in the heart of London contained the then biggest collection of Chinese artefacts ever seen outside of China. Every exhibit in the "*China in miniature*" collection⁴ had been collected by Nathan Dunn, an American businessman who had made his fortune in China.

Nathan Dunn (1782-1844) first arrived in Canton [Guangzhou] in 1818 with sizeable debts. By the time he left there in 1833 he had not only amassed a significant fortune, he had also accumulated a private collection of curiosities that was designed to be representative of "*all things in both the human and the natural realm in China*".⁵

Among the objects from the 'natural realm' on show in London in 1842 were six cases of stuffed birds. Mr Strickland read out the scientific names of the 88 specimens of 75 species to the great and the good of the Zoological Society of London.

He noted that two of the specimens weren't assigned to species level. One of these belonged to the genus *Centropus* (which, with the benefit of hindsight, had to have been either Lesser or Greater Coucal); and the other – exhibit 886 – belonged to the genus *Anthus* (pipits), which was then even trickier to identify to species level than it is today.

Of the China-contenders for the identification of 'exhibit 886', only Red-throated (1811), Richard's (1818) and Paddyfield Pipit (1818) had been described to science⁶ by 1842; whereas Rosy (1847), Buff-bellied ssp *japonicus* (1847), Water ssp *blakistoni* (1863), Pechora (1863), Blyth's (1876) and Olive-backed Pipit (1907) were then unknown.

Mr Strickland – clearly a master of understatement – explained that the bird skin couldn't be identified because the genus was "*at present imperfectly worked out*".

Fast forward 175 years to the present day, and any birdwatcher standing on the left bank of the Wenyu River watching a 'blackbird' – a bird that is regarded as a distinct species by some authorities and not by others – could be forgiven for thinking that the science of bird classification has remained in the Dark Ages.

Dark Ages? He or she would be wrong of course. But only by a few years. Ornithology's Dark Ages ended with the advent of advanced DNA analytics. Even though The Enlightenment has dawned, it is still fair to say that things remain "*at present imperfectly worked out*". This statement is as true for the identification of the trickier species-groups that can be encountered by the Wenyu River as it is for the field of scientific nomenclature.

Ironically, the tremendous advances in DNA analytics have resulted in more not less head-scratching when it comes to the identification of some species. For example, Arctic Warbler used to be one of the easier tasks to solve in the notoriously difficult *phylloscopus* genus's ID puzzle-book. Now, if the bird formerly known as 'Arctic Warbler' is seen but not heard then it can't be specifically identified. Instead, it has to be noted down – inelegantly it has to be said – as an Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* or a Kamchatka Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus examinandus*.

Some of the many other Wenyu identification challenges that spring to mind include Eurasian and Oriental Cuckoo; [Northern] House and Asian House Martin; Swinhoe's and Pin-tailed Snipe; Ringed and Semi-Palmated Plover; and Blyth's and Richard's Pipit (two of the nine Pipit species that have been recorded by the Wenyu I hasten to add).

Looking on the bright side, if the quality of the birding experience correlates with the magnitude of the challenge, then the Wenyu River is a great place to go birding.

Of all the very good reasons to go there, surely the best reason is that you never know what you might find. A less than scientific study of the occurrence date of Wenyu 'firsts' [first Wenyu record of a species] shows that, over the years, birds have been added to the Wenyu list at a rate that is more-or-less in line with the intensity of the coverage.

By the end of August 2017, 280 species had been seen in the Wenyu recording area. What, then, are likely to be the next 20 species that will propel the total to the dizzy height of 300 species? How about Baer's Pochard, Mongolian Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Eurasian Curlew, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Oriental Pratincole, Oriental Scops Owl, Indian Nightjar, Needle-tailed Swift, Ashy Minivet, Tiger Shrike, Bull-headed Shrike, Asian Paradise-Flycatcher, Japanese Waxwing, Northern House Martin; Blunt-winged Warbler; Grey-backed Thrush,

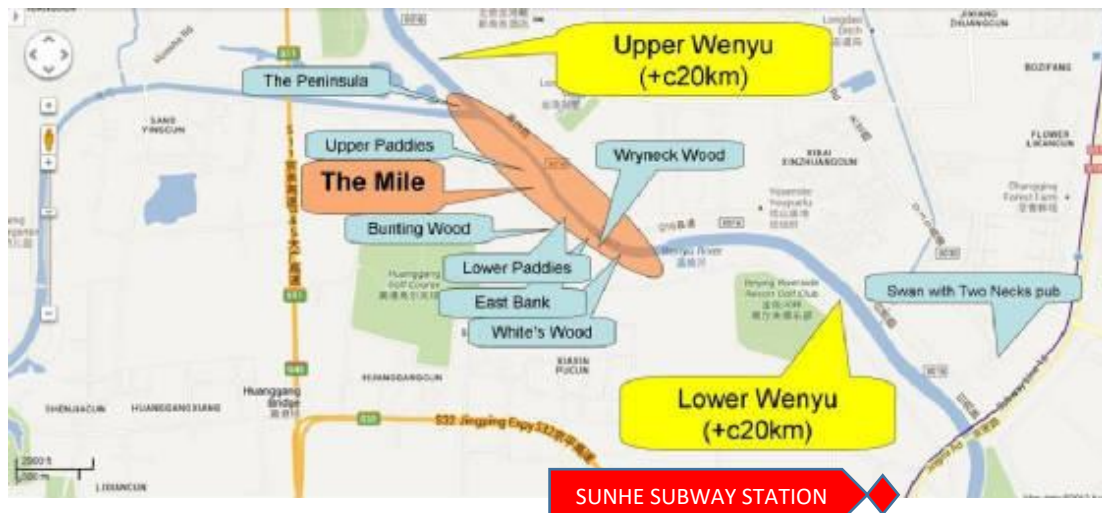
Pale Thrush, Elisa's Flycatcher, and Pallas's Rosefinch. Your guess is as good as mine. What is for sure is that 300 species will be recorded sooner or later. And if Greater Flamingo can turn up in December [2015], then anything can turn up, at any time of year.

The continuing exponential trajectory of the Wenyu species' total should inspire would-be visitors to look harder and search wider – because, such is the Wenyu's potential, anyone birding there has a good chance to make his or her own contribution to the increasingly-rich knowledge bank of the birds of China.

Luminaries such as the previously-mentioned Mr Gould and Mr Strickland were among the first to make deposits to this bank of knowledge. But, if we were to focus on great contributions to the study of birds through a Beijing or northern China prism, then one name shines more brightly than the rest. That name is Père David, a French monk on a mission to find and put a name to 'new' birds (and mammals and more). As well as the eponymous Père David's Laughingthrush (a species that, by the way, has been seen by the Wenyu), Père David can also be thanked for setting up China's very first natural history museum in Beijing. Prize specimens included the capital's first record of Lammergeier, collected "west of the city".

There's a little bit of Père David, Robert Swinhoe, and John David Dignes La Touche in every birder, because every birder's pace (and heart-rate) will quicken when in pursuit of something 'new' – both in terms of birds as well as the places to find them. Not only would birding the Wenyu be a new experience for all but a few of the world's birders; there are relatively few birders even in China who have savoured its delights.

This is easily remedied because Beijing's best-kept birding secret is as close as fifteen minutes' taxi drive away from Beijing's international airport, as well as being within easy reach of the capital's superb subway system.

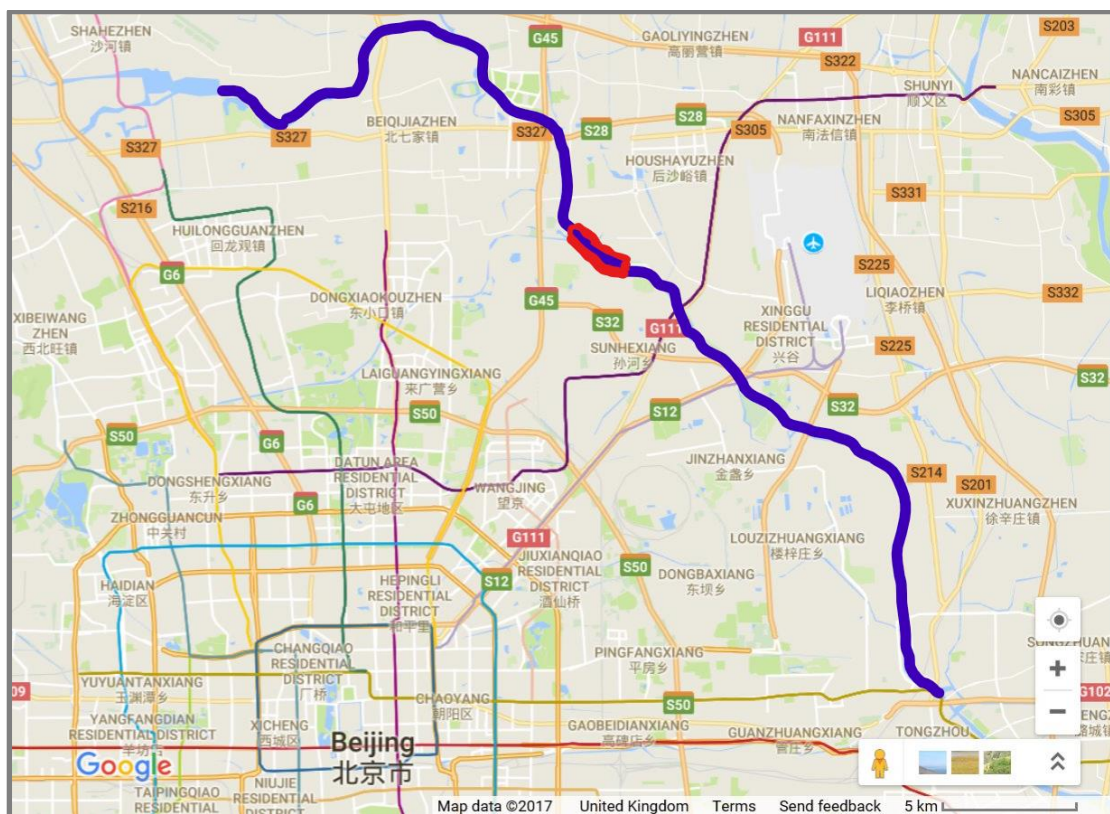


The Wenyu is Beijing's main river – both in terms of its length (47.5km) and its importance to bird, other animal, and plant life. Indeed, the official Beijing

Tourism English-language website, as well as describing the Wenyu as “a beautiful ancient river”⁸, pays it the highest possible respect by bestowing on it the title of “The mother river of Beijing”⁸. So, a tip of the cap in the direction of Beijing Tourism for inspiring the sub-title of this book.

Beijing’s Mother River – marked in indigo on the map below – flows south-east from Shahe Reservoir (another of Beijing’s top birding sites), before turning north-east and then arching round to follow a generally south-easterly and then southerly course all the way to the ‘North Canal’ in Tongzhou.

A large area of the Wenyu has been designated a Greenway – an extensive network of well-maintained walking and cycle paths running parallel to the river. This impressive Greenway continues to the North Canal – providing the keen walker, cyclist, and birder with a combined total of 110km of paths.



The best birding area is known as "The Mile" (marked in red). It is the best spot on the river by far, with 260 of the Wenyu’s 280 species recorded there.

To get to The Mile using the subway system, take line 15 (which connects directly with lines 8, 5, 13, and 14) to Sunhe 孙河 station. Take the north-western exit and walk north-east for 15 minutes along the footpath that runs adjacent to the Jingmi road 京密路 (on the north-western side of the road). You will then see, ahead of you, the Jingmi road and subway bridges that cross the Wenyu River. Do not cross the river. Stay ‘this’ side of the bridges by following the track that goes down to the river, and start watching birds if you

haven't done so already (the bushes, small conifers, and ditches that border the road are well worth watching, as is the area behind the station).

Follow the river upstream for about two miles until you meet a small tributary to the Wenyu, near a riding school. This is known as Jack's Stream – with another tip of the cap, this time to the Jack Snipe that was a regular and extremely popular visitor there for two weeks in the first winter-period of 2014. Follow this stream for about 80 yards until you reach a minor road. Turn right, and walk along the road until you reach the East Bank and Lower Paddies. It's about a mile from here to the Waterworks and weir, next to the Peninsular (at the tip of which the Chaobai river flows into the Wenyu). Where possible, walk upstream on the river bank until you reach this point.

Alternatively, if you are signed up with one of the bike hire companies, you can hop on one of the many cycles available at the subway station. If you do this, then make sure that you park it at various places that are close to circular walks through the best habitat.



All records and locations in the species' accounts relate to The Mile unless described as the Upper Wenyu (upstream of The Mile) or Lower Wenyu (downstream of The Mile).

The Wenyu has been reasonably well covered October to April. Very well covered in May and early June, and poorly covered from mid-June to the end of September (not least because the vegetation in that period is overgrown and riverside access can be difficult). Clearly, therefore, the peak period of autumn migration has been under-recorded to say the least, and birders wanting to make a significant contribution to Wenyu record-keeping would be more likely to be rewarded by concentrating their effort in July (for waders) and between late-August and mid-September (for passerines as well as much else).



The Status

Passage migrant; Winter visitor; Breeding visitor; Resident (breeding or presumed to breed).

Common – Seen on every 'in-season' visit in good numbers.

Fairly common – Seen on most 'in-season' visits in good numbers.

Regular – Seen in all/most of the season/years, and expected to be seen 'this' year.

Sporadic – 'Missing' in some or more of the years.

Scarce – One or small numbers seen up to a dozen or so times

Rare – One or small numbers seen just a few times (up to four records).

Very rare – One record (perhaps involving two or more birds together), but distribution indicates likely occurrence.

Extremely rare – One record, but distribution indicates very unlikely to occur.

The Seasons

Winter = Dec/Jan/Feb;

Spring = Mar/Apr/May;

Summer = Jun/Jul/Aug;

Autumn = Sep/Oct/Nov.

The Months

Early = 1st-10th (except February);

Mid = 11th-20th/21st (except February);

Late = 21st-30th or 22nd-31st (except February of course).

The Birds

Japanese Quail 鹌鹑 *Coturnix japonica* [Monotypic]

Recently regular winter visitor in small numbers. Rare in spring and autumn.

In **2013**: Four (two pairs) on the 13th, three on the 14th, and one on the 16th Jan (SFB). Two on the 23rd Feb (TT). One on the 21st Sep (ZX, RL, WX, SFB, et al).

In **2014**: Single birds on the 6th and 26th Jan on the Lower Wenyu downstream of the riding school. One on the 29th Jan (SFB), the first record for The Mile.

Two on the 9th Jan **2015** (SFB), and two on the 3rd Apr (ZX & SFB).

Common Pheasant 雉鸡 *Phasianus colchicus karpowi*

Resident in small numbers. One or two birds seen on many dates.

The only records of three or more birds are: Five on the 25th Apr **2006** (WQi), and four on the 3rd Jun **2012** (CH via PH).

Swan Goose 鸿雁 *Anser cygnoides* [Monotypic]

Scarce passage migrant. 10 records, 51 birds.

14, the record count for the Wenyu, flew NW on the 15th Mar **2009** (BIJ). A flock of five flew high-south over The Mile on the 15th Oct (SFB, photo).

One on the 8th Mar **2011** (SM), the earliest spring record.

Two on the 23rd Mar **2013** (DVD). Single birds on the 16th and 17th May flew north over the Lower Wenyu, just outside of The Mile (SFB).

Six (a group of four and then a pair) flew north on the 20th April **2014** (SFB). Three on the 3rd May (WB-B). Nine flew north at 5.50am on the 18th May (SFB).

Nine on the 8th Apr **2015** at the Upper Wenyu, on a small lake half a mile south-west of Shahe reservoir (SFB).



Tundra Bean Goose 短嘴豆雁 *Anser serrirostris serrirostris*

Rare. Two records, three birds.

Two on 13th Jan **2007** (WQi) – one of which was photographed by Wu Qi (WQi) – appears on the next page thanks to his kind permission.

One on 15th Mar **2009** (BIJ). This bird had “spent a considerable time on the river” in 2008 (BIJ).



Taiga/Tundra Bean Goose 豆雁/短嘴豆雁 *Anser fabalis middendorffii/Anser serrirostris serrirostris*

One on the 24th Mar **2007** (WQi).

Greater White-fronted Goose 白额雁 *Anser albifrons albifrons*

Rare. Two records.

One on the 15th Apr **2006** (WQi & LQW).

One immature on the 28th Nov **2015** (TT & ML), on the Shunyi bank of The Mile, seen from the opposite side of the river (by the Lower Paddies).

Bar-headed Goose 斑头雁 *Anser indicus* [Monotypic]

Extremely rare.

Two from the 2nd to the 8th Mar **2011** (SM).

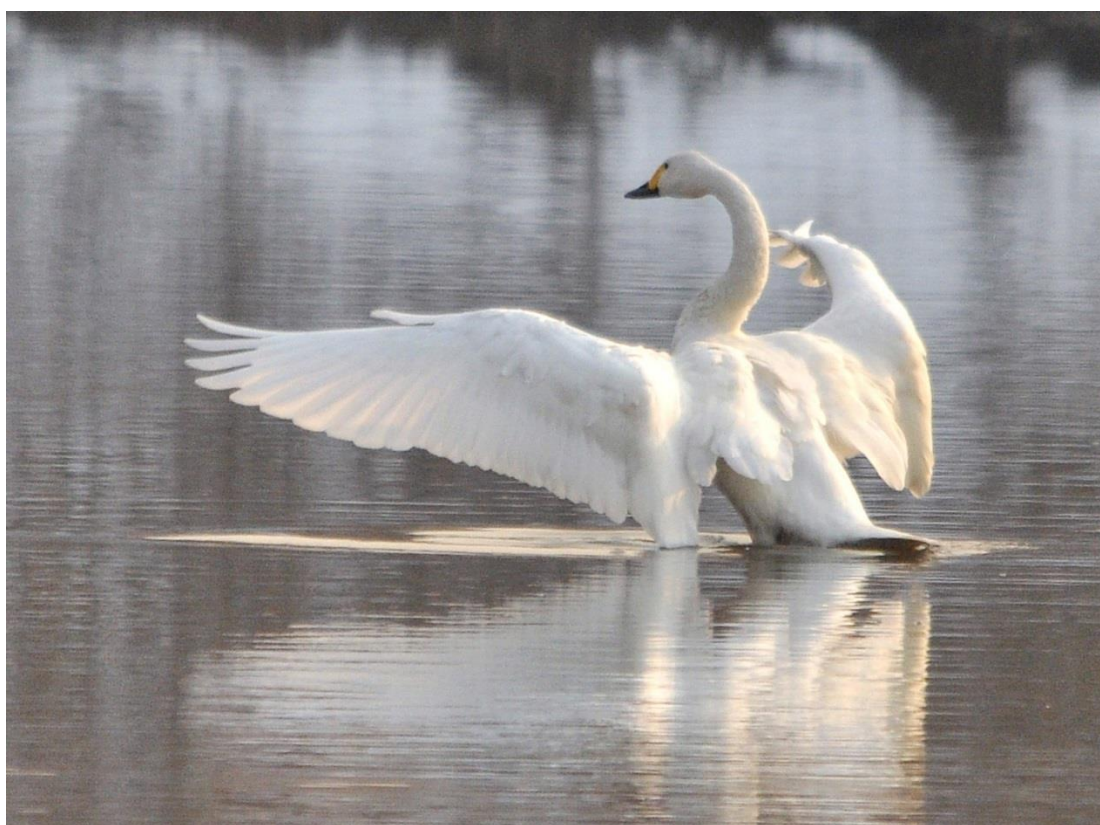
Bewick's Swan 小天鹅 *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*

Rare. Three records, nine birds.

One on 13th Nov **2009** on the Lower Wenyu, half a mile downstream of The Mile (SFB, photo below).

Five on the 29th Mar **2011** (SM).

Two from 25th Nov **2012** (SFB) until at least the 23rd Feb **2013** (TT) on the Lower Wenyu, a few miles north of Tongzhou. One of the birds had a half-black bill, and was eventually thought to most likely be an aberrant Bewick's and not a Bewick's x Whistling Swan intergrade.



Whooper Swan 大天鹅 *Cygnus Cygnus* [Monotypic]

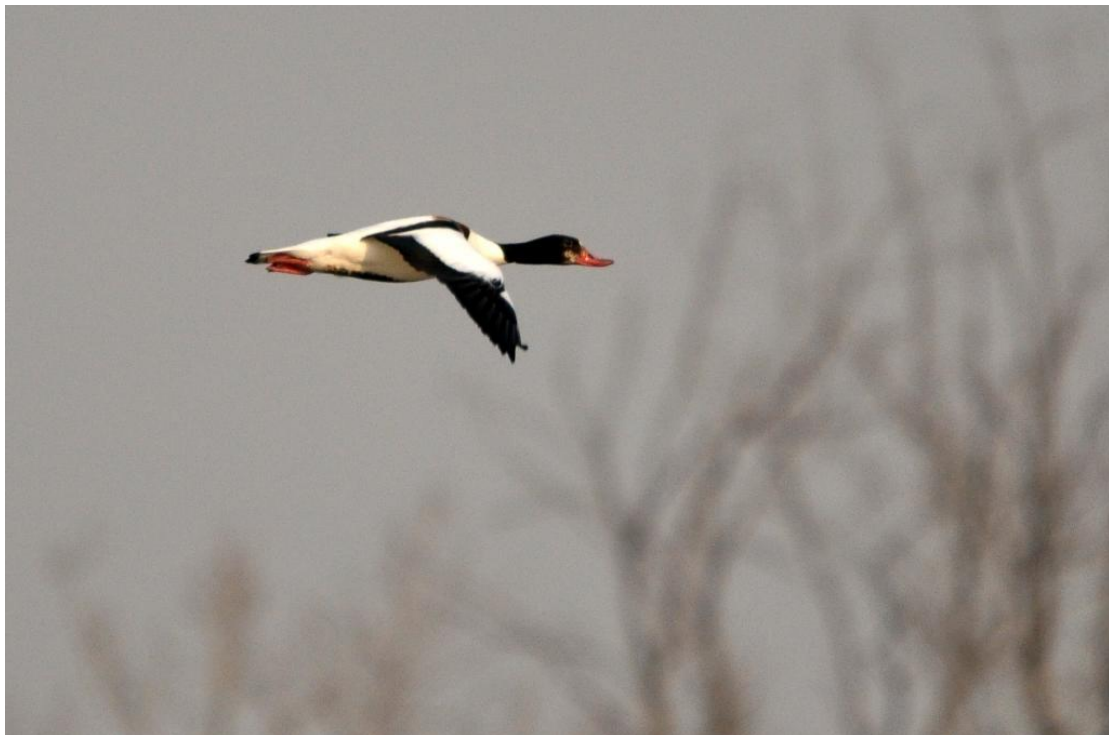
Rare. Two records, four birds.

Three on the 23rd Mar **2003** on the Changping stretch of the river (CBR).

One on the 6th (SFB, photo on the next page) to at least the 18th Jan **2014** (SFB), on the river by the Lower Paddies.



Common Shelduck 翹鼻麻鴨 *Tadorna tadorna* [Monotypic]



Scarce. Five records, at least 31 birds.

One on the 26th Mar **2006** (WQi, XB & LTW).

One on the 18th and probably the same bird on the 31st Jan **2013** on the Lower Wenyu (SFB) – “perhaps only the second January record from Beijing” (PH).

A flock of ten on the 6th Jan **2014** and a flock of 29 on the 9th (SFB).

Ruddy Shelduck 赤麻鸭 *Tadorna ferruginea* [Monotypic]

Regular winter visitor, sometimes in large numbers (record count of 400).



Flocks of 50 or more birds:

53 on the 13th Jan **2007** (WQi).

100 on the 3rd Jan **2009** (BIJ); 140 on the 11th Jan (BIJ); 100 on the 18th Jan (BIJ). 185 on the 20th Dec (BIJ).

50 on the 2nd and also on the 8th Mar **2011** (SM).

c60 on the 7th Jan **2013** (SFB); and 70 on the 8th Feb (WQi).

In **2014**: c80 on the 10th, c60 on the 12th and c110 on the 18th Jan (SFB). 400 on the 3rd Feb (AM) – the record count for the Wenyu. 60 on the 10th Mar (SFB).

In **2015**: 52 on the 8th, c120 on the 9th and c150 on the 20th Jan (SFB). c90 on the 11th (SFB) and 57 on the 18th Feb (TT). c90 on the 4th Mar (SFB). 87 on the 28th Nov (TT & ML).

Mandarin Duck 鸳鸯 *Aix galericulata* [Monotypic]

A regular winter visitor in small numbers; as well as a breeding visitor in recent years (it is not known, of course, whether wintering birds stay to breed).

One pair (perhaps the same) nesting in the tall trees on the Shunyi side of the river in 2013 and 2015.

In **2009**: Single birds on the 3rd, 11th and the 18th Jan (BIJ). One on the 8th May (BIJ). 23 on the 25th Oct (WQi), the record count for the Wenyu.

Four on the 23rd Apr **2010** (WQi) and one on the 16th May (SM).



One on the 24th May **2011** (SM).

One male on the 8th May **2012** (SFB).

In **2013** (SFB): Ten (five drakes) on the 7th, 17 (five drakes) on the 9th around The Peninsular, ten on the 13th and one on the 16th Jan. A pair on the 4th May

in the top branches of a tall tree on the Shunyi side of the river, a male on the 11th May, and presumably the same pair on the main paddies on the 29th May.

In **2014** (SFB): Two (one male) on the 6th, 11 (six males) on the 10th, seven on the 18th, three on the 23rd, and nine (five males) on the 26th Jan. Two males on the 25th Apr.

In **2015**: One pair on the 17th March on The Mile. Probably the same pair there on the 3rd April (ZX & SFB) were displaying on the 5th (DM & SFB) a few hundred yards upstream of the lower weir. Three pairs on the 6th Apr on the Upper Wenyu (XR). One pair on the 9th Apr, again upstream of the Lower Weir. The same pair there on the 19th May (SFB). Three (two males) on The Mile on the 21st May (SFB). One pair seen on the river in June and July (SFB). Two on the 28th Nov (TT & ML).

Gadwall 赤膀鸭 *Anas strepera strepera*

Regular winter visitor and early spring migrant, in small numbers.

Counts of four or more birds:

18 on the 25th Apr **2006** (WQi).

28 on the 8th Apr **2007** (WQi), the record count for the Wenyu.

Eight on the 30th Nov **2008** (BIJ). Four on the 14th (BIJ & DIM) and 18 on the 20th Dec (BIJ).

Ten on the 27th Jan **2009** (WQi). 15 on the 15th and 20 on the 22nd Mar (BIJ). 18 on the 3rd Apr (BIJ).

Two on the 21st Jan **2010** (SFB). Five on the 6th Mar (SFB). 11 on the 23rd (WQi) and two pairs on the 24th Apr (SFB).

Eight on the 7th and c15 on the 31st Jan **2013** (SFB); Nine pairs along an eight mile stretch of the Lower Wenyu on the 23rd Feb (TT); 12 on the 5th Mar (SFB).

Five on the 5th Jan **2014** and one on the 9th – in seven visits in January (SFB).

Three on the 3rd (ZX & SFB) and two pairs on the 4th Apr **2015** Apr (DM & SFB). Ten on the 28th Nov (TT & ML).

Falcated Duck 罗纹鸭 *Anas falcate* [Monotypic]

Rare winter and scarce early spring visitor. Nine records, at least 31 birds.



11 on the 25th Apr **2006** (WQi) is the record count for the Wenyu.

Six on the 1st (WQi) and three on the 8th Apr **2007** (WQi).

One on the 14th (BIJ & DIM) and three on the 20th Dec **2008** (BIJ).

One on 27th Jan **2009** (WQi) – only the second January record for Beijing (PH).

Two on the 25th Apr **2010** (SM).

Six (four males and two females) on the 23rd Feb **2013** (TT) along an eight mile stretch of the Lower Wenyu. Two males on 16th Mar on the Mile near the south weir (SFB, photo).

Eurasian Wigeon 赤颈鸭 *Anas Penelope* [Monotypic]

Scarce early spring visitor. Nine records, at least 23 birds.

Eight on the 26th Mar **2006** (WQi, XB, & LQW), the record count for the Wenyu.

Two on the 15th (BIJ), seven on the 21st (WQi) and one on the 22nd Mar **2009** (BIJ). Five on 3rd Apr (WQi).

Three on the 23rd Apr **2010**.

One male on the 16th Mar **2013** (SFB).

Two males on the 10th Mar **2014** (SFB).

Two males on the 7th Apr **2015** on the Upper Wenyu (SFB).

Mallard 绿头鸭 *Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*

Common winter visitor. Fairly common spring visitor (up to 20 birds seen on all 22 visits in May 2013). Has also bred.

Flocks of 200 or more birds:

500 on the 25th Jan **2004** (BB).

400 on the 16th Jan **2005** (DST); 400 on the 26th Feb (DST).

210 on the 12th Nov **2006** (WQi).



1200 on the 13th Jan **2007** (WQi & WQi); 300 on the 24th Mar (WQi).

1,400 on the 16th Feb **2008** (WQi). 2,000 on the 14th (BIJ & DIM) and 1,000 on the 20 Dec (BIJ).

2,500 on the 3rd Jan **2009** (BIJ); 3,000 on the 11th Jan (BIJ) – the record count for the Wenyu; 2,500 on the 18th Jan (BIJ); 2,480 on the 27th Jan (WQi). 250 on the 15th Feb (BIJ). 348 on the 21st Mar (WQi). 200 on the 3rd Apr (WQi). 550 on the 25th Oct (WQi). 250 on the 20th Dec (BIJ).

800 on the 21st (SFB) and 1,300 on the 26th Jan **2010** (WQi). 500 on the 6th (SFB) and 560 on the 21st Mar (WQi).

230 on the 8th Feb **2011** (DW). 300 on the 2nd Mar (SM).

In **2013**: 2,100 on the 7th, 1,100 on 9th, 300/400 on the 13th and 14th, c2,050 on the 16th and 600 on the 18th Jan (SFB). 500 on the 8th (WQi), and 395 on the 23rd Feb (TT).

In **2014** (SFB): 950 on the 8th, 450 on the 9th, 1,100 on the 10th, 600 on the 12th, 800 on the 18th, 300 on the 23rd, and 200 on the 26th Jan. 400 on the 9th Mar.

c350 on the 20th Jan **2015** (SFB) and 1,300 on the 28th Nov (TT).

Eastern Spot-billed Duck 斑嘴鸭 *Anas zonorhyncha* [Monotypic]

Regular winter, spring and autumn visitor, mostly in small numbers.

60 on the 25th Jan **2004** (BB).

Single figures recorded on five dates in **2006**, and 18 on the 25th Apr.

50 on the 13th Jan **2007** (WQi); Three on the 1st and eight on the 8th April (WQi).

Two on the 16th Feb and one on the 26th Apr **2008** (WQi).

60 on the 27th Jan and 33 on the 21st Mar **2009** (WQi).

200 on the 26th January **2010** (WQi) is the record Wenyu count as well as a "record count for January" for Beijing (PH).

Four on the 18th Feb **2011** (WQi).

Four on the 3rd (CH via PH) and one on the 16th June **2012** (J-EN via PH).

c60 on the 7th, 10 on the 9th, c20 on the 13th, two on the 18th and c20 on the 31st Jan **2013** (SFB). Five on the 23rd Feb (TT via PH). One on the 22nd May (SFB).

One on the 6th, two on the 12th and two on the 23rd Jan **2014** (SFB).

One pair on the 4th Apr **2015** (DM & SFB); 32 on the 28th Nov (TT & ML).

Shoveler 琵嘴鸭 *Anas clypeata* [Monotypic]

Sporadic spring visitor in small numbers, and rare winter visitor.

12 on the 15th (WQi & LQW), four on 25th and presumably the same four on the 27th Apr **2006** (WQi). One on the 16th Nov (WQi).

Three on the 24th Mar **2007** (WQi). 11 on the 1st (WQi via PH) and three on the 8th Apr (WQi).

One on the 14th Dec **2008** (BIJ & DIM).

Four on the 15th (BIJ via PH), and 13 on the 21st Mar **2009** (WQi) – the record count for the Wenyu. Four on the 22nd Mar (BIJ). Six on the 3rd Apr (BIJ).

Seven on the 21st (WQi) and six on the 28th Mar **2010** (BIJ). Four on the 18th (BIJ, RC & KC) and eight on the 23rd Apr (WQi).

One drake on the 16th Jan **2013** (SFB) was the “first January” and indeed the “first ever winter record” in Beijing (via PH). Perhaps the same bird was seen on the 31st Jan (SFB), followed by two on the 8th Feb and three (all females) on the 23rd Feb on an eight mile stretch of the Lower Wenyu (SFB). One male on the 16th Mar (SFB).

One male, perhaps the returning bird of Jan 2013, on the 6th, 9th and 18th Jan **2014** (SFB).

Six on the 12th Mar **2015** (TT & SFB).

Pintail 针尾鸭 *Anas acuta* [Monotypic]

Sporadic winter and spring visitor in small numbers.

16 on the 26th Feb **2005** (DST).

Four on the 11th and one on the 24th Mar **2007** (WQi).

Two on the 27th Jan **2009** (WQi). One on the 12th (BIJ via PH) and one also on the 22nd Feb 2009 (BIJ). One on the 20th Dec 2009 (BIJ).

Five on the 21st (WQi) and one on the 28th Mar **2010** (BIJ). Two on the 18th Apr 2010 (BIJ, RC & KC).

Five on the 15th Mar **2011** (SM).

A pair on the 16th Jan **2013**, in the channel south of The Peninsular (SFB).

One male on the 18th and two males on the 23rd Jan **2014** (SFB). Four on the 9th Feb and two males on the 6th Mar (SFB).

Garganey 白眉鴨 *Anas querquedula* [Monotypic]

Formerly a regular spring visitor in good numbers. A scarce spring and autumn migrant in recent years.

16 on the 26th Mar **2006** (WQi, XB, & LQW). In April, there were 30 on the 15th (WQi & LQW), 42 on the 25th (WQi) – the record Wenyu count, one on the 29th (SW) and ten on the 27th (WQi).

Four on the 24th Mar **2007** (WQi); 40 on the 8th (WQi) and presumably the same 40 on the 9th Apr (WQi).

23 on the 3rd Apr **2009** (WQi).

11 on the 23rd Apr **2010** (WQi).

One on the 12th Sep **2012** (PA, TT & SFB).

A pair on the 16th Mar **2013** – the earliest arrival date for the Wenyu – and one male on the 23rd (SFB). A pair on the 4th May 2013 (PA & SFB).

Baikal Teal 花脸鸭 *Anas Formosa* [Monotypic]

Rare winter, spring and autumn visitor. Four records, 10 birds.



Three birds on the 17th Sep **2005** (BA).

One male on the 19th Mar **2006** (WQi & AB);

Three on the 14th Dec **2008** (BIJ & DIM);

Three (two drakes, one female) on the 16th and on the 17th Mar **2013**, on the river near the East Bank (found by SFB; seen by PA on the 17th). The photo (SFB) includes one of the males and the female, as well as a pair of Common Teal on the right.

Common Teal 绿翅鸭 *Anas crecca crecca*

In recent years, a regular winter visitor in moderate numbers and spring visitor in small numbers. Formerly a fairly common winter and spring visitor.

Flocks of 50 or more birds:

60, 16th Jan **2005** (DST).

140 on the 26th Mar **2006** (WQi, XB, & LQW). 400 on the 15th (WQi & LQW), 325 on the 25th Apr (WQi) and 50 on the 27th Apr (WQi).

150, 13th Jan **2007** (WQi); 200, 11th Mar (WQi); 280, 24th Mar (WQi); 350 on the 8th Apr (WQi).

450, 16th Feb **2008** (WQi).

300 on the 27th Jan **2009** (WQi). 500 on the 21st Mar (WQi) is the record count for the Wenyu. 350 on the 3rd Apr (WQi).

120 on the 26th Jan **2010**; 50 on the 21st Mar (WQi).

80 on the 7th Jan and 70 on the 14th Jan **2013** (SFB).

c140 on the 6th and c85 on the 9th Jan **2014** (SFB).

68 on the 18th Feb **2015** (TT).

Red-crested Pochard 赤嘴潜鸭 *Netta rufina* [Monotypic]



Very rare.

Two males on the early morning of the 25th May **2010**, on the flooded Lower Paddies (SFB, photo).

Common Pochard 红头潜鸭 *Aythya farina* [Monotypic]

Sporadic winter and spring visitor in small numbers.

Two on the 26th Mar **2006** (WQi, XB, & LQW).

One on the 11th and 75 on the 24th Mar **2007** (WQi). 27 on the 1st Apr (WQi).

Two on the 3rd Jan **2009** (BIJ). Three on the 15th (BIJ) and nine on the 21st Mar (WQi).

Ten on the 21st (WQi) and six on the 28th Mar **2010** (BIJ). Three on the 23rd Apr (WQi).

One on the 13th Dec **2012** (SFB).

One on the 13th and on the 16th Jan **2013** (SFB). Eight (six drakes) on the afternoon of 28th February 2013, by the Peninsular (SFB). One male on the 10th, one female on the 16th, and 20 on the 23rd Mar (DVD) – the record Wenyu count.

One on the 6th Jan **2014** (SFB).

Ferruginous Duck 白眼潜鸭 *Aythya nyroca* [Monotypic]

A scarce visitor in winter and spring. Five records of single birds.

One on the 3rd and one on the 18th Jan **2009** (BIJ). One on the 21st Mar (WQi).

One on the 16th Jan **2013**, on the ice north of The Peninsular (SFB, photo).

One on the 5th May **2015** (TT).



Tufted Duck 凤头潜鸭 *Aythya fuligula* [Monotypic]

Sporadic spring visitor; and rare winter visitor (two records, 20 birds).

Eight on the 26th Mar **2006** (WQi, XB, & LQW); One on the 15th Apr (WQi & LQW); Four on the 16th Nov (WQi).

15 on 1st Apr **2007** (WQi).

Two on the 11th Jan **2009** (BIJ).

17 on the 26th Jan **2010** (WQi) – “perhaps only the second January sighting” in Beijing (PH). Three on the 12th (AYY via PH), 42 on the 21st (WQi) and one on the 28th Mar (BIJ).

10, 23rd Mar **2013** (DVD).

One on the 28th Nov **2015** (TT).



Greater Scaup 斑背潜鸭 *Aythya marila nearctica*

Extremely rare.

One on the 26th Jan **2010** with 17 Tufted Ducks (Photo courtesy of WQi).

Long-tailed Duck 长尾鸭 *Clangula hyemalis* [Monotypic]

Extremely rare.

A female from the 25th to the 27th Apr 2006 (WQi & SG) was photographed by and appears here courtesy of Wu Qi.

As you would expect, it's not often that this sea-duck makes its way inland as far as Beijing.

Then again, if the even rarer Harlequin can also make it all the way to China's capital, then so could quite a few of the other, so far unrecorded 'sea-ducks'.

What are the odds, I wonder, of a Steller's Eider turning up on the Wenyu?



Common Goldeneye 鹊鸭 *Bucephala clangula clangula*

Regular winter and early spring visitor in sometimes moderate numbers.

Records of ten or more birds:

30 on the 26th Feb **2005** (DST); 40 on the 6th March (WRQ).

12 on the 26th Mar **2006** (WQi, XB, & LQW).

22 on the 7th and 35 on the 13th Jan **2007** (WQi). 11 on the 24th Mar (WQi).

80 (34 males, 46 females) on the 16th Feb **2008** (WQi).

12 on the 3rd (BIJ), and 142 on the 27th Jan **2009** (WQi) – the record count for the Wenyu.

95 on the 26th Jan **2010** (WQi). 60 on the 4th (SFB) and 16 on the 21st Mar (WQi). Six on the 4th May (BIJ).

Ten on the 15th Mar **2011** (SM).

18 on the 7th, 39 on the 13th and c35 on the 31st Jan **2013** (SFB). 50 on the 5th (SFB), 40 on the 10th (SFB) and 40 on the 23rd Mar 2013 (DVD).



Smew 白秋沙鴨 *Mergellus albellus* [Monotypic]

Regular winter and early spring visitor in small to moderate numbers.

Five on the 16th Jan **2005** (DST). 50 on the 26th Feb (DST) is the record Wenyu count, as well as the record February count for Beijing (PH).

Two on the 26th Mar **2006** (WQi, XB, & LQW).

25 on the 7th (WQi via PH) and 40 on the 13th Jan **2007** (WQi). Four on the 24th Mar (WQi via PH).

20 on the 16th (WQi) and one on the 23rd Feb **2008** (HX via PH). Eight on 20th Dec (BIJ).

Eight on the 3rd (BIJ), four on the 11th (BIJ), eight on the 18th (BIJ) and 15 on the 27th Jan **2009** (WQi). Two on the 12th (BIJ via PH), six on the 14th (TSS via PH), 24 on the 15th (BIJ) and seven on the 22nd Feb. Two on the 20th Dec (BIJ).

20 on the 26th Jan **2010** (WQi). Seven (three males) on the 4th and five (one male) on the 6th Mar (SFB).

11 on the 2nd Mar **2011** (SM);

Five males on the 15th Dec **2012** (PH).

c20 on the 7th, 21 on the 9th, c20 on the 13th, two on the 18th Jan and c30 on the 31st Jan **2013** (SFB). Five on the 8th (WQi) and one female on the 23rd Feb (TT). c30 on the 5th (SFB) and ten on the 23rd Mar (DVD).

Four females on the 6th, five (one male) on the 9th, seven (two males) on the 10th, 18 (nine males) on the 12th, and seven (two males) on the 18th Jan **2014** (SFB). Four on the 16th Feb (SFB).



Goosander 普通秋沙鸭 *Mergus merganser merganser*

Regular winter and early spring visitor, usually in small numbers.

Eight on the 26th Feb **2005** (DST).

One on the 26th Mar **2006** (WQi, XB, & LQW).

40 on the 7th and 110 on the 13th Jan **2007** (WQi) – the record Wenyu count by 44 birds. Two on the 24th Mar (WQi).

Two on the 23rd Feb **2008** (HZ). Four on the 14th (BIJ & DIM) and 18 on the 20th Dec 2008 (BIJ).

Two on the 3rd (BIJ), eight on the 11th (BIJ) and 23 on the 27th Jan **2009** (WQi). One on the 20th Dec (BIJ).

66 on the 26th Jan **2010** (WQi via PH).

17 (five adult and one first-winter) on the 4th Jan **2012** (PH).

Five on the 7th, several on the 13th, eight on the 16th and c12 on the 31st Jan **2013** (SFB). Nine on the 8th (WQi) and 14 along an eight mile stretch of the Lower Wenyu on the 23rd Feb (TT). Ten on the 5th (SFB) and three on the 23rd Mar (DVD).

Three on the 6th, 15 (seven males) on the 9th, three (one male) on the 12th, 11 (five males) on the 18th and four on the 23rd Jan **2014**. Four on the 9th Feb (SFB).

Two on the 28th Nov **2015** (TT & ML).

Little Grebe 小鵝鶯 *Tachybaptus ruficollis poggei*

Regular throughout the year in small or moderate numbers.

Records of 15 or more birds are listed (mostly via PH):

In **2006** (WQi): 33 on the 25th Apr; 22 on the 12th Nov.

In **2007** (WQi): 32 on the 7th and 20 on the 12th Jan. 43 on the 1st and 35 on the 8th Apr. 35 on the 20th Oct.

In **2008** (WQi): 15 on the 26th Apr; 15 on the 16th Nov.

In **2009**: 20 on the 27th Jan (WQi); 50 on the 25th Oct (WQi & LQW).

26 on the 26th Jan **2010** (WQi).

20 on the 4th Jan **2012** on the Tongzhou stretch of the river (PH). 47 on the 6th Oct.

44 along an eight mile stretch of the Lower Wenyu on the 23rd Feb **2013** (TT). 20 on the 21st Sep (RL).

c50 on the 20th Jan **2015** (SFB) – the record Wenyu count. 31 on the 4th Nov (PH).

Great Crested Grebe 凤头鸕鶿 *Podiceps cristatus cristatus*

Scarce spring visitor. Seven records, at least 20 birds.

Two on the 25th (WQi), two on the 27th (WQi) and one on the 29th Apr **2006** (SW).

Eight on the 24th Mar **2007** (WQi) – the record Wenyu count.

One on the 23rd Apr **2010** (WQi).

Seven on the 23rd Mar **2013** (DVD) – the earliest arrival date for the Wenyu.

One pair on the 7th Apr **2015** at the Upper Wenyu (SFB).

Black-necked Grebe 黑颈鸕鶿 *Podiceps nigricollis nigricollis*

Rare. Two records, three birds.

Two on the 23rd Apr **2010** (WQi).

One on the 28th Sep **2014** on The Mile (SFB).

Yellow Bittern 黄苇干干鸟 *Ixobrychus sinensis* [Monotypic]

Scarce visitor or possibly rare breeder. Seven records, nine birds.

One on the 5th Jul **2009** (BIJ).

Two on the 2nd Jun **2010** (SFB).

Two on the 23rd (SFB) and one on the 31st May **2012** (TT).

One on the 23rd May **2013** on the Upper Paddies (SFB). One on the 10th Jun 2013.

One on the 4th June **2015** (SFB).



Von Schrenck's Bittern 紫背苇干干鸟 *Ixobrychus eurhythmus*
[Monotypic]

Scarce spring visitor in recent years. Ten records involving at least five birds.

An adult male on 21st May **2012** (photo on the next page), on the Lower Paddies (Found by SFB, later seen by TT). Two males were seen on the Lower Paddies the following day (TT, 22nd May), and also a male on the 31st May (TT).

Single females – perhaps the same bird – were seen on the 16th (the earliest arrival date for the Wenyu), 21st, 23rd, 25th and the 26th May – all on the Lower-

Lower Paddies except the last record which was seen on the Upper Paddies (SFB). One male on the 27th May (TT).

One on the 16th May **2014** (SFB).



Cinnamon Bittern 栗苇干干鸟 *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus* [Monotypic]

Rare. Two records, two birds.



One, a male, on the 16th May **2013** flew from the Shunyi to the Chaoyang side of the river, landing 300 yds downstream of The Mile (SFB). One, presumably an immature female, on the 23rd May (SFB, photo) over the Upper Paddies – the first record for The Mile (and one of three 'little' bittern species to be seen there that morning).

Black-crowned Night Heron 夜鹭 *Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax*

Regular visitor (except winter), formerly in large numbers.

Records of ten or more birds:

200 on the 15th (WQi & LQW) and up to 250 on the 25th Apr **2006** (WQi, WQii & SG).

Ten or more birds recorded on six of nine visits from the 16th to the 26th May **2013** (SFB).

Ten on the 30th May **2014** (AM).

Chinese Pond Heron 池鹭 *Ardeola bacchus* [Monotypic]

Regular visitor in small numbers; has possibly bred.

Records of four or more birds:

Four on the 30th Apr **2009** (BIJ) – the earliest arrival date for the Wenyu.

Six on the 4th May **2010** (BIJ); 10 on the 27th July 2010.

Six on the 24th May **2011** (SM).

Recorded on six of 22 visits in May **2013** (SFB); the number peaked at about ten birds on the 23rd and 26th [one to three birds seen on 11 of the visits].

Four on the 30th May **2014** (AM).

Greater Flamingo 大红鹳 *Phoenicopterus roseus* [Monotypic]

Extremely rare. One record, which is the first for Beijing.

One from the 7th (via WL) until the 13th Dec **2015** (LH, TT et al) on the mud of the river near Jingmi Lu (Lower Wenyu). This bird was subsequently re-found at Shahe reservoir on the 30th Dec (CM), about 13 miles to the north-west.

Eastern Cattle Egret 牛背鹭 *Bubulcus coromandus* [Monotypic]

Sporadic spring visitor in small numbers. Also likely to occur in autumn.

One on the 30th Apr **2009** (BIJ); Five on the 7th May (BIJ via PH).

Two on the 5th and two on the 13th May **2010** (BIJ). One on the 24th Jul 2010 (BIJ via PH).

A flock of five on the 7th May **2012** (SFB).

In May **2013** (SFB): One on the 17th, four together on the 18th, three together on the 21st, a single on the 23rd, a flock of seven on the 26th, and a flock of eight on the 29th (the record count for the Wenyu). All were seen on the Lower Paddies except the four on the 18th, which fed in the Water Meadow. In June, one on the 10th (TT via PH).

Six (two singles, and a flock of four) on the 25th Apr **2014** (SFB, photo) – the earliest arrival.



Grey Heron 苍鹭 *Ardea cinerea cinerea* (ssp *jouyi* could possibly occur)

Regular visitor in small numbers at any time of year.

Records of three or more birds:

Eight on the 21st Oct **2006** (WQi, XB et al).

Five on the 12th Sep **2012** (PA, TT & SFB); Four on the 6th Oct (TT via PH).

Three on the 7th and also three on the 9th Jan **2013** (SFB); c6 on the 16th Mar (SFB).

Between three and 12 birds (the Wenyu record count) present on four of seven visits in Jan **2014** (SFB). Five on the 9th Feb and nine on the 6th Mar 2014 (SFB).

Six together on the 8th Jan **2015** (SFB).

Purple Heron 草鹭 *Ardea purpurea manilensis*

Scarce spring visitor.

Recorded before 2012 (BIJ, SM & SFB).

At least three sightings of perhaps the same singleton in May **2012** (SFB).

At least one by the Upper Wenyu in May **2014** and June **2015** (SFB).

Great White Egret 大白鹭 *Ardea alba modesta*

Regular visitor in usually small numbers except in winter, when rare.

Records of three or more birds:

14 on the 12th Apr **2006** (BIJ).

Three on the 3rd Jun **2012** (SFB); c30 on the 12th Sep (PA, TT & SFB);
Three on the 6th Oct (TT via PH).

Three or more on nine of 22 days (c10 on two days) in May **2013** (SFB).
Five on the 21st Sep (RL).

11 on the 24th and three on the 30th Apr **2014** (SFB); Seven on the 30th May.

Six on the 3rd Apr **2015** (ZX & SFB).

Winter and near-winter records: One on the 18th Jan **2014** (SFB); One on the 3rd Feb **2014** (AM); One on the 28th Nov **2015** (TT & ML).

Intermediate Egret 中白鹭 *Egretta intermedia intermedia*

Very rare.

One on the 30th Apr **2009** (BIJ).

Little Egret 白鹭 *Egretta garzetta garzetta*

Regular visitor in formerly moderate numbers. Rare in winter.

Records of three or more birds:

18 on the 15th (WQi & LQW) and 21 on the 25th Apr **2006** (WQi).

50 on the 26th Apr **2008** (WQi).

14 on the 12th Apr **2009** (BIJ).

Four on the 3rd Jun **2012** (CH via PH); 16 on the 12th Sep (PA, TT & SFB).

Three or more seen on 15 of the 22 visits in May **2013** (SFB), with a maximum of eight birds on the 26th.

Three on the 11th (DM & SFB) and five on the 30th May **2014**.

In winter and near winter: One on the 18th Jan **2013**; One on the 28th Nov **2015** (TT & ML).

Great Cormorant 普通鸕鶿 *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*

Sporadic visitor in autumn and spring.

Five on the 21st Oct **2006** (WQi, XB et al); Four on the 16th Nov (WQi).

18 on the 20th Oct **2007** (WQi).

Seen several times on the Upper and Lower Wenyu in **2010** and **2011** (SFB).

15 on the 12th Sep **2012** (PA, TT & SFB); 21 on the 6th Oct (TT via PH) is the record Wenyu count.

Two on the 23rd (DVD) and 11 at the end of March **2013** (SFB).

One on the 26th Apr **2015** (SFB), and perhaps the same bird on the 3rd May (TT).

Osprey 鵟 *Pandion haliaetus haliaetus*

Very rare or rare.

Recorded **prior to 2009** (BIJ).

Crested Honey-buzzard 凤头蜂鹰 *Pernis ptilorhynchus orientalis*

Sporadic passage migrant in moderate and occasionally large numbers in concentrated periods.

Recorded **prior to 2009** (BIJ).

c20 on the 12th Sep **2012** (SFB).

About 75 birds, drifting high northwards, within one hour on the morning of the 11th May **2013** (SFB; large numbers also seen by PA on the same day).

More than a dozen drifting south on at least one mid-to-late month day in September **2014** (SFB).

One on the 5th May **2015** (TT); One juvenile on the 16th Sep (TT & BW).

Black-winged Kite 黑翅鸢 *Elanus caeruleus vociferus*

Extremely rare.

One on the 15th Sep **2013**, flying south following the Wenyu on the Chaoyang side, seen from the *Jichang Fulu* (airport service-road) bridge (SFB).

Black Kite 黑鸢 *Milvus migrans lineatus*

Rare. At least three records.

Recorded **prior to 2009** (BIJ).

One, long-stayer, seen on 10th March **2013** on the Upper Wenyu, a few miles downstream of Shahe reservoir (many observers including SFB).

One high over The Peninsula on the 17th **May** 2013 (SFB).

Black Vulture 秃鹫 *Aegypius monachus* [Monotypic]

Extremely rare.

Recorded **before 2009** (BIJ).

Eastern Marsh Harrier 白腹鸮 *Circus spilonotus* [Monotypic]

Very rare.

One on the 30th Apr **2009** (BIJ).

Hen Harrier 白尾鸮 *Circus cyaneus* [Monotypic]

Rare. Three records of single birds.

One on the 6th May **2009** (BIJ).

One on the 8th Mar **2011** (SM).

One female on the late afternoon of the 20th Jan **2013** flew over The Peninsular, heading south-east (SFB).

Pied Harrier 鵞鵝 *Circus melanoleucos* [Monotypic]

Rare. Four records of single birds.

An adult male on 22nd April **2012**, quartered the Lower Paddies between 5.10 and 5.15pm (ZX & SFB, photo).

A very late bird, an immature, on the 17th May **2013**, quartered the Upper Paddies before flying off north-westwards (SFB).

A late female on the 11th May **2014** over the Upper Paddies (DM & SFB).

One juvenile on the 16th Sep **2015** (TT & BW).



Chinese Sparrowhawk 赤腹鷹 *Accipiter soloensis* [Monotypic]

Very rare.

Recorded **before 2009** (BIJ).

Japanese Sparrowhawk 日本松雀鷹 *Accipiter gularis* (presumably ssp *sibiricus*, although nominate *gularis* is possible)

Very rare.

Recorded **before 2009** (BIJ).

Eurasian Sparrowhawk 雀鷹 *Accipiter nisus nisosimilis*

Regular visitor, usually single birds.



One on the on the 26th Feb **2005** (DST).

One on the 26th Mar **2006** (WQi, XB, & LQW); One on the 15th Apr (WQi & LQW).

One on the 23rd Feb **2008** (HZ).

One on the 18th Apr **2010** (BIJ, RC & KC).

One on the 7th Jan **2013** (SFB); One on the 23rd Feb (TT); One to the south on the 1st May (SFB); One on the 21st Sep (ZX, RL, WX, SFB, et al).

Two males on the 18th Jan **2014**, and one on the 23rd.

One male on the 11th Feb **2015** (SFB). One female on the 4th Apr (DM & SFB).

Northern Goshawk 苍鹰 *Accipiter gentilis schvedowi*

Rare. Three records of single birds.

One on the 12th Jan **2014** (SFB); One male on the 26th Apr (SFB).

One female on the 3rd Apr **2015** (ZX & SFB) flew north-west, low over the trees on the Chaoyang side of the river, about one mile downstream of The Mile.

Grey-faced Buzzard 灰脸鵟鹰 *Butastur indicus* [Monotypic]

Very rare.

One flew high to the south-east at 4pm on the 22nd May **2013** (SFB).

Short-toed Eagle 短趾雕 *Circaetus gallicus* [Monotypic]

Very rare.

One flew north at about 5.45pm on the 18th May **2015** – just after a strong wind had dropped – crossing from Chaoyang to Shunyi district as it did (SFB).

Eastern Buzzard 普通鵟 *Buteo japonicus japonicus*

Regular winter visitor in small numbers. Sporadic in spring and autumn.

Records of four or more birds:

Four on the 7th Jan **2007** (WQi); Four on the 1st Apr (WQi).

Four on the 20th Dec **2009** (BIJ).

Eight migrating south on 6th Oct **2012** (PA via PH), the record count for the Wenyu.

Upland Buzzard 大鵟 *Buteo hemilasius* [Monotypic]

Sporadic winter and early spring visitor. 12 records, at least 11 birds (discounting likely returnees).

Two on the 25th Apr **2006** (WQi); One on the 17th Dec (DST).

One on the 11th Mar **2007** (WQi & LTW).

One on the 23rd Feb **2008** (HZ).

One on the 11th Jan **2009** (BIJ); One on the 12th Dec (BIJ via PH).

One on the 8th Apr **2013** (SFB).



One on the 18th Jan **2014** (SFB) and probably also the same bird on the 16th Feb 2014 (SFB). One on the 2nd and also the same bird on the 3rd Nov on The Mile (SFB).

One on the 9th Jan **2015** (SFB, photo) flew over the Peninsular from the Chaoyang to the Shunyi side of the river, where it was mobbed by an Eastern Buzzard.

Rough-legged Buzzard 毛脚鵟 *Buteo lagopus kamtschatkensis*

Very rare.

One on the 23rd Feb **2008** (HZ, and SJJ via PH).

Lesser Kestrel 黄爪隼 *Falco naumanni* [Monotypic]

Very rare.

One on the 30th Apr **2013**, flew north on the Chaoyang side of the Wenyu, seen from the East Bank (SFB).

Kestrel 红隼 *Falco tinnunculus perpallidus*



Regular throughout the year, singles or occasionally pairs (has probably bred).

Records of three or more:

Three on the 12th Mar **2007** (SFB).

Five on the 12th Jun **2012** (J-EN).

Three on the 23rd Feb **2013** (TT via PH).

Amur Falcon 红脚隼 *Falco amurensis* [Monotypic]

Regular spring visitor in small numbers. Has probably bred.

The vast majority of records are in May, but also three April records as follows:

One on the 30th Apr **2009** (BIJ). One on the 23rd Apr **2010** (WQi via PH) is the earliest spring record. One on the 25th Apr **2010** (SM via PH).

Five on the 19th May **2010** (SM) is the record Wenyu count. Three on the 5th May **2015** (TT) is only the second time that more than two have been recorded.



Merlin 灰背隼 *Falco columbarius insignis/pacificus*

Rare. Three records only.

One on the 23rd Feb **2013** near the golf course east of Jingmi Lu (TT).

One male on the 10th Jan **2014** (SFB); One on the 2nd Nov on The Mile (SFB).

Hobby 燕隼 *Falco subbuteo subbuteo*

Sporadic breeder.

One pair bred in **2008** and **2009** at least – “back on territory” from the 30th Apr **2009** (BIJ & SM).

Two on the 16th May **2010** (SM).

One on the 18th May **2015** (SFB).

Peregrine Falcon 游隼 *Falco peregrinus peregrinus/japonensis* [birds showing characteristics of ssp *peregrinator* also seen (TT)]

Scarce visitor.

One on the 16th Jan **2013** on an electricity pylon on The Mile (SFB, photo on the following page). One flew low north-westwards on the 17th May (SFB), 500 yards downstream of The Mile.

One on the 9th Feb **2014** (SFB).

Two on the 24th Mar **2015** (SFB). One, probably the same bird, on the 17th, 18th and 21st May (SFB). One on the 28th Nov (TT & ML).



Great Bustard 大鸨 *Otis tarda dybowskii*

Very rare.

One on 29th April **2006** is the only record (BML, LX, & SW).

Eastern Water Rail 普通秧鸡 *Rallus indicus* [Monotypic]

Very rare.

Recorded before **2012** (SM).

White-breasted Waterhen 白胸 *Amaurornis phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Scarce migrant and perhaps a rare breeding bird (same pair returning?).



One on the 18th, 19th, and 20th May **2009** (BIJ).

One on the 4th May **2010** (BIJ) – the earliest arrival date for the Wenyu by 12 days, and two on the 16th May (SM). One on the 24th Jul (SM).

In May **2012**: One by the Round Pool of the Lower Paddies on the 23rd (SFB) and again on the 24th (SFB), 26th (SFB, photo), 28th (TT) and 31st (TT).

One on the 22nd May **2013** (SFB) on the Lower Paddies. Two together in the same place on the 25th. One on the 26th at the Lower Wenyu (at The Pond), 18km downstream of The Mile. In June, one male seen and heard calling (TT via PH).

One on the 7th (SFB) and one on the 13th Jun **2014** (TT).

Baillon's Crake 小田鸡 *Porzana pusilla pusilla*

Rare visitor. Three records of single birds.

One on the 7th May **2012** (SFB) – the earliest arrival date, and one on the 30th May (SFB).

One flying low over the Lower Paddies on the 19th May **2014** (SFB, photo).



Ruddy-breasted Crake 红胸田鸡 *Porzana fusca erythrothorax*

Scarce spring visitor. Has perhaps bred.

One on the early morning of the 25th May **2013** at the Upper Paddies (SFB).

One on the 21st May **2014** (TT) – the earliest arrival date, and three on the 30th May (AM). Two on the 7th (SFB) and one on the 11th Jun (YY). One heard on the 13th Jun (TT via PH).

Two on the 4th June **2015** (SFB).

Watercock 董鸡 *Gallicrex cinerea* [Monotypic]

Rare. Two records, four birds (three males).

Four (Three males and one female) on 27th Jun **2009** (BIJ) and three males on the 1st July (BIJ).

Moorhen 黑水鸡 *Gallinula chloropus chloropus*

Regular visitor in recent years, has probably bred.



Three on the 23rd Apr **2010** (WQi) – the joint earliest record; Four on the 16th May (SM); Ten on the 24th Jul (SM) is the highest count.

Two on the 24th May **2011** (SM).

One on the 23rd May **2012** (SFB); Six on 3rd June (eBird).

In **2013**:

One on the 23rd Apr – the joint earliest record (SFB).

In May (SFB): At least one bird recorded on two dates in mid and three dates in the latter part of the month. First recorded on the 16th, the first for the year.

Six on the 10th June (TT).

One on the 16th and three on the 17th May **2014** (DM & SFB).

Two on the 21st May **2015** (SFB).

Coot 骨顶鸡 *Fulica atra atra*

Inexplicably rare [surely under-recorded].

Recorded **before 2009** (BIJ).

Recorded in May **2012** (SFB).

One on the 7th Apr **2015** at the Upper Wenyu (SFB).

Common Crane 灰鹤 *Grus grus* [Monotypic]

Very rare.

Two on the 15th Apr **2006** (WQi & LQW).

Yellow-legged Buttonquail 黄脚三趾鹑 *Turnix tanki blanfordii*

Rare. Two records.

One on the 28th May **2012** in the scrubby area immediately downstream of the riding school [Lower Wenyu] on the Chaoyang side of the river (TT).

One on the 5th Jun **2014** (WB-B).

Black-winged Stilt 黑翅长脚鹬 *Himantopus himantopus* [Monotypic]

Regular spring visitor in usually small but sometimes moderate numbers.

Records of three or more birds:

Four on the 15th Apr **2006** (WQi & LQW).

14 on the 8th Apr **2007** (WQi).

Three on the 9th May **2009** (BIJ).

Four on the 25th Apr **2010** (SM).

Six on the 3rd May **2012** (SFB).



In **2013**:

Three on the 17th Apr (SFB).

In May (SFB): Six on the 3rd; two on the 4th, 11th, 22nd, and 23rd; and a flock of eight on the 25th.

Five on the 10th Jun (TT).

Five on the 4th Apr **2014** (SFB) – the earliest spring record. 20 on the 23rd Apr (SFB) – the highest count for the Wenyu. Seven on the 17th May (DM & SFB).

One pair on the 2nd and the 3rd Apr **2015** (SFB); Six on the 10th (SFB, photo) and seven on the 26th Apr (SFB).

Avocet 反嘴鹮 *Recurvirostra avosetta* [Monotypic]

Very rare.

One on the 25th Apr **2006** (WQi).

Northern Lapwing 凤头麦鸡 *Vanellus vanellus* [Monotypic]

Regular early spring visitor in varying numbers.

95 on the 26th Mar **2006** (WQi, XB, & LQW) is the highest count.

12 on the 8th Apr **2007** (WQi).

21 on the 22nd Mar **2009** (BIJ).

Three on the 28th Mar **2010** (BIJ);

Four on the 21st Mar **2013** (SFB); 26 (including a flock of 19) on the 27th Mar.

One on the 23rd Apr **2014** (SFB).

In 2015:

Nine on the 12th Mar (TT & SFB) – the earliest spring record. Three on the 24th Mar (SFB).

Three on the 5th Apr (SFB). 33 on the 6th Apr, flew over The Mile, and followed the river upstream. The same 33 were seen on the 7th Apr at the Upper Wenyu section, five miles north of The Mile (SFB). Ten on the 9th and eight on the 10th Apr (SFB). One on the 26th Apr (SFB).

One on the 4th Nov (PH).



For European birders, there's something quite odd about hearing the familiar peewit call and looking up to see a Lapwing standing next to its exotic-looking giant cousin, the Grey-headed Lapwing.

This is just one example of 'east-meets-west' birding that the Wenyu serves up on a regular basis.

Grey-headed Lapwing 灰头麦鸡 *Vanellus cinereus* [Monotypic]

Regular spring visitor in small numbers.

Four on the 26th Mar **2006** (WQi, XB, & LQW).

One on the 21st Mar **2009** (WQi) – the joint earliest spring record (also 2014); Nine on the 22nd Mar (BIJ); Three on the 3rd Apr (BIJ); Five on the 12th Apr 2009; Three on the 7th May (BIJ); One on the 9th May (BIJ); One on the 14th May (BIJ); Five on the 17th May (BIJ & SM).



Two on the 28th Mar **2010** (BIJ); Three on the 25th Apr (SM); Two on the 4th May (BIJ); One on the 6th May (SFB); One on the 16th May (SM); One on the 19th May (SM); One on the 25th May (SFB).

Two on the 29th Mar **2011** (SM); Five on the 24th May (SM).

Three on the 30th May **2012** (SFB); Three on the 12th Sep (SFB).

In May **2013** (SFB): One on the 3rd, 5th, 22nd and 25th; a pair on the 23rd; three on the 17th; and six on the 21st (including a flock of four at the Lower Paddies). In September, 12 on the 21st (ZX, RL, WX, SFB, et al) is the highest Wenyu count.

Three on the 21st Mar **2014** (SFB) – the joint earliest spring record (also 2009). Two on the 6th Apr (SFB). Two on the 11th, also two on the 16th May (SFB). One on the 18th, five on the 25th and one on the 30th May (AM via PH).

One pair on the 3rd, three on the 8th, three on the 10th and eight on the 26th Apr **2015** (SFB). Six on the 5th (TT), three on the 20th (SFB) and one on the 23rd May (DM & SFB).

Pacific Golden Plover 金斑鸻 *Pluvialis fulva* [Monotypic]

Regular May visitor in small numbers.



Two on the 11th May **2009** (BIJ & SM) – the joint earliest spring record (along with 2014). One on the 12th and one on the 17th May (BIJ & SM); One on the 18th May 2009 (BIJ).

Two on the 16th May **2010** (SM).

The flock of eight on the 14th May **2012** on the Shunyi bank of The Mile (SFB, photo of four of the group on the previous page). The highest Wenyu count.

A pair on the 21st and one on the 22nd May **2013** upstream of the Upper Paddies (SFB).

One on the 11th May **2014** (DM & SFB) – the joint earliest spring record (along with 2009). Three on the 19th May (SFB).

One on the 17th May **2015** (SFB).

It's only a matter of time before an American Golden Plover, or even a European Golden Plover, shows up in a flock of Pacific Golden Plover browsing the Wenyu's invertebrate-rich mud. My guess is that July is the month to be on watch for this.

Grey Plover 灰斑鸻 *Pluvialis squatarola squatarola*

Extremely rare.

Recorded **prior to 2009** (BIJ).

Ringed Plover 剑鸻 *Charadrius hiaticula tundrae*

Extremely Rare.

One from 7.30am to 7.35am on 8th May **2012** (SFB), on the mud north of the tributary to the north of the Lower Paddies. Flew off north, calling.

Long-billed Plover 长嘴剑鸻 *Charadrius placidus* [Monotypic]

Regular spring visitor in small numbers, and recently regular winter visitor also in small numbers.

Five on the 26th Mar **2006** (WQi, XB, & LQW).

Two on the 11th Mar and one on the 1st Apr **2007** (WQi).

Two on the 16th Nov **2008** (WQi).

Two on the 21st Mar **2009** (WQi).

One on the 28th Mar and one on the 4th Apr **2010** (BIJ via PH).

One on the 15th Mar **2011** (SM).

One on the 6th Oct **2012** (TT via PH).

Three on the 16th Jan **2013** (SFB); Seven along an eight mile stretch of the Lower Wenyu on the 23rd Feb (TT) – the highest Wenyu count. One on the 16th and one on the 23rd Mar 2013 (ZX & SFB). Three on the 21st Sep (RL, WX, SFB et al).

Three on the 9th, three on the 12th, two on the 18th and two on the 21st Jan **2014** (SFB). Two on the 9th Feb (SFB); Five on the 21st Mar (SFB).

Two on the 11th (SFB) and two on the 18th Feb **2015** (TT). One on the 5th (SFB), four on the 12th (TT & SFB) and one on the 18th Mar 2015 (SFB). Two

on the 7th Apr 2015 (SFB). One on the 4th Nov (PH). Two on the 15th Nov (TT & ML).

Little Ringed Plover 金眶鸻 *Charadrius dubius curonicus*

Regular spring visitor in usually small but sometimes moderate numbers. Has bred at least once.

Records of four or more birds and the earliest record of the year:

In **2009**: One on the 15th March (BIJ) – the joint earliest spring record (along with 2010). 21 on the 22nd Mar (BIJ); 25 on the 12th Apr (BIJ) – the highest Wenyu count.

In **2010**: One on the 15th March (BIJ) – the joint earliest spring record (along with 2009). Five on the 28th Mar (BIJ); Four on the 4th Apr (BIJ); Six on the 4th May.

Two on the 29th Mar **2011** (SM).

One on the 3rd May **2012** (SFB).

In **2013**: Three on the 21st Mar (SFB). Up to six from late March to the end of April (SFB). In May (SFB), up to five birds seen on eight dates in early May; three birds on the 16th, one or two birds on four dates in late May. Eight – “two pairs one of which had four young” – on the 10th Jun 2013 (TT via PH).

One on the 21st Mar **2014** (SFB). Ten on the 6th, five on the 23rd and seven on the 25th Apr (SFB).

Two on the 24th Mar **2015**. Five on the 3rd Apr (ZX & SFB); c20 on the 7th Apr 2015 at the Upper Wenyu (SFB); c10 on the 10th Apr 2015 (SFB).

Kentish Plover 环颈鸻 *Charadrius alexandrinus nihonensis*

Inexplicably scarce or even rare.

Recorded **before 2009** (BIJ).

Recorded in May **2012** (SFB)

Two on the 4th and presumably the same two again on the 6th May **2013** (SFB).

Greater Sand Plover 铁嘴沙鸻 *Charadrius leschenaultii leschenaultii*

Very rare.

One in summer plumage on the 15th May **2015** on the mud of the tributary as it enters the Wenyu river, upstream of the Lower Paddies (ZX).

Turnstone 翻石鸻 *Arenaria interpres interpres*

Extremely rare.

One on the morning of the 14th Sep **2014** (DM & SFB), on the Chaoyang bank of The Mile, adjacent to the Lower Paddies.

Greater Painted Snipe 彩鹬 *Rostratula benghalensis* [Monotypic]

Very rare.

One on the 27th Jun **2009** (SM); A pair (female photographed) on the 1st Jul (BIJ); Three ("two females chasing one male") on the 5th Jul 2009 (BIJ).

Eurasian Woodcock 丘鹬 *Scolopax rusticola* [Monotypic]

Inexplicably very rare.

One flushed on the 15th Oct **2009** on the edge of White's Wood (SFB).

Jack Snipe 姬鹬 *Lymnocyptes minimus* [Monotypic]

Rare. Two birds, the second of which was seen on many dates.

Recorded **before 2009** (BIJ).

One on the 18th Jan **2014** (SFB), found on the now eponymous Jack's Stream to the south of the riding school. Flew north (over The Mile) before turning around and flying over the woods on the Chaoyang side of the river (SFB). Seen at the same stream several more times in January (TT et al); last seen on the 2nd Feb (LX).

Latham's Snipe 澳南沙锥 *Gallinago hardwickii* [Monotypic]

Extremely rare.

One, 9th to 14th May **2009** (BIJ), on the Lower Paddies. Photographed alongside two Common Snipe on the 14th.

Pin-tailed Snipe 针尾沙锥 *Gallinago stenura* [Monotypic] OR Swinhoe's Snipe 大沙锥 *Gallinago megala* [Monotypic] aka 'Swintail' Snipe.

Regular May visitor in small numbers. One record in June. The very poor showing in autumn (two records, three birds) undoubtedly reflects the poor observer coverage, particularly in September.

One on the 25th May **2012** (SFB). One on the 6th Oct (TT).

Seen on 16 of 22 days in May **2013**. Up to three birds seen on eight of ten days in early May. About ten birds seen on the 16th and on the 17th. One and two seen on the 18th and the 20th respectively. About ten birds on the 21st; three on the 22nd and on the 23rd; and one – the last bird of the month – on the 25th. Also, one on the 10th Jun (TT via PH).



In May **2014**: Several on the 11th (SFB), nine on the 16th (SFB), several on the 17th (DM & SFB), 12 on the 18th (SFB), three on the 19th (SFB), c12 on the 20th (SFB) including one bird that was about 70% albino (later videoed by TT).

Six on the 3rd May **2015** (TT); Several on the 21st May (SFB); Two on the 16th Sep (TT).

Swinhoe's Snipe 大沙锥 *Gallinago megala* [Monotypic]

At least one record.

One on the 13th May **2009** (BIJ).

Common Snipe 扇尾沙锥 *Gallinago gallinago gallinago*

Regular visitor from mid-March to mid-May in varying numbers.

In **2009**:

Six on the 15th Mar (BIJ) – the earliest record for the Wenyu; 18 on the 22nd Mar (BIJ).

40 on 12th Apr (BIJ); 107 on the 30th Apr (BIJ).

In May: 30 on the 3rd (BIJ & SM); 20 on the 6th (BIJ), 50 on the 8th (BIJ); 25 on the 9th (BIJ); 35 on the 11th (BIJ & SM); 30 on the 12th (BIJ & SM); 24 on the 13th (BIJ via PH); 20 on the 14th (BIJ). Ten on the 17th (BIJ & SM); 20 on the 19th (BIJ); Eight on the 20th (BIJ).

In **2010**:

Eight on the 28th Mar.

In Apr: 20 on the 4th (BIJ); 60 on the 18th (BIJ, RC & KC); 30 on the 25th (SM).

In May: 44 on the 4th (BIJ); 25 on the 10th (SM); 20 on the 13th (SM); 30 on the 16th (SM); and 25 on the 19th (SM).

Two on the 29th Mar **2011** (SM via PH); 12 on the 24th May (SM).

Several on most visits in early May **2012** (SFB). 11 on the 12th Sep (PA, TT & SFB).

In **2013**:

Two on the 16th and one on the 21st Mar (ZX & SFB).

In May 2013: Between ten and 40 birds (on the 1st) seen each day in early May. Significant drop off in numbers after the 11th. Next seen on the 16th (five). Two birds on the 17th and also on the 22nd. Last seen on the 23rd (one bird).

In 2014:

c30 on the 30 Mar (SFB).

Ten on the 23rd and 12 on the 25th Apr (SFB).

15 on the 11th(DM & SFB), three on the 16th (SFB) and one on the 30th May (AM).

In 2015: Two on the 3rd May (TT). The lack of reports in 2015 is probably due to the relatively few visits in spring compared with other recent years; and although often seen on what visits there were, it failed to make observers' highlights.

Whimbrel 中杓鹬 *Numenius phaeopus variegatus*

Very rare.

One on the 11th May **2014**, flew over the Lower Paddies, calling as it did (DM & SFB).

A rare bird in Beijing. Probably overlooked, particularly so in autumn when observer coverage is very low.

Spotted Redshank 鹤鹬 *Tringa erythropus* [Monotypic]

Scarce May visitor. Records relate to probably no more than five 'encounters' totalling 15 birds.

Spotted Redshank is also a scarce bird in 'urban' Beijing.

However, there is no doubt that a few weeks of intensive wader-watching along the banks of the Wenyu in July and early August would re-write the status of this and many other waders.

There is also every likelihood that observers would be rewarded with one or more Wenyu 'firsts'.



Two on the 17th May **2009** (BIJ & SM) were also there the following day (BIJ).

One on the 19th May **2010** (SM).

In **2012**:

A maximum of eight birds in May – a flock of six on the Lower Paddies on the 23rd, eight there on the 24th and also the 26th, and seven there on the 30th (SFB);

Three on the Lower Paddies on 12th Sep 2012 (PA, TT & SFB).

One on the 19th May 2014 (SFB).

Common Redshank 红脚鹬 *Tringa totanus ussuriensis* [ssp *terrignotae* could possibly occur]

Rare spring visitor. Four records, 13 birds.

Six on the 8th (BIJ) and one on the 12th May **2009** (BIJ & SM).

A flock of five on the 20th May **2013** at the Lower Paddies (SFB).

One on the 26th Apr 2015 (SFB).



Marsh Sandpiper 泽鹞 *Tringa stagnatilis* [Monotypic]

Sporadic spring and autumn visitor.

Five on the 25th Apr **2010** (SM).

One on the 12th Sep **2012** (PA, TT & SFB).

Except on the 3rd May **2013** when four were seen, one or two birds seen each day from the 2nd to the 9th May 2013 (SFB).

Two on the 11th May **2014** (DM & SFB).

Common Greenshank 青脚鹞 *Tringa nebularia* [Monotypic]

Scarce spring and autumn visitor.

One on the 19th May **2009** (BIJ).

One on the 7th and one on the 21st May **2012** (SFB). Eight on the 12th Sep (PA, TT & SFB).

In May **2013** (SFB): Three on the 1st, 2nd, 5th and 7th; One on the 6th, 8th and 11th; Four on the 10th.

One on the 11th May **2014** (DM & SFB).

Green Sandpiper 白腰草鷸 *Tringa ochropus* [Monotypic]

Regular winter visitor in small numbers and passage migrant (up to mid-May and from mid-Sep) in sometimes moderate numbers.

Records of four or more birds:

Seven on 27th Jan **2009** (WQi); Five on the 15th Feb (BIJ); Five on the 12th Apr (BIJ); Eight on the 30th Apr (BIJ); Five on the 3rd May (BIJ).

In May **2010**: Four on the 4th (BIJ), five on the 10th, five on the 13th May (SM) and on the 19th (SM).

Several on the 6th May **2012** (SFB); Five on the 8th May (SFB); 12 on the 12th Sep (BIJ); 19 on the 6th Oct (TT via PH).

In May **2013** (SFB): Between seven and 15 birds seen every day from the 1st to the 10th [three birds seen on the 11th and one on the 13th].

In **2014**: Five on the 10th and four on the 18th Jan (SFB); Ten on the 30th Mar (SFB); c25 on the 23rd Apr (SFB) – the record Wenyu count; Nine on the 13th Nov 2014.

Five on the 11th Jan **2015** (SFB); Eight on the 3rd Apr (ZX & SFB); c10 on the 4th Apr (DM & SFB); 12 on the 4th Nov (PH).

Wood Sandpiper 林鷸 *Tringa glareola* [Monotypic]

Regular passage migrant in sometimes large numbers.

Earliest dates and records of ten or more birds:

In **2009**:

25 on the 30th Apr (BIJ).

In May: 28 on the 6th (BIJ); 13 on the 7th (BIJ); 20 on the 8th (BIJ); 33 on the 9th (BIJ); 35 on the 11th (BIJ & SM); 12 on the 12th (BIJ); 30 on the 13th (BIJ); 12 on the 17th (BIJ); 14 on the 18th (BIJ).

In 2010:

Three on the 25th Apr 2010 (SM).

In May: 34 on the 4th (BIJ); 35 on the 10th (SM); 25 on the 13th (SM); 12 on the 16th (SM); 30 on the 19th (SM).

25 on the 24th May **2011** (SM).

In **2012**: 40 on the 3rd May (SFB); c350 on the 6th May – the record count for Beijing; 30 on the 14th May; “Lots” on the 9th Aug (TT via PH).

In 2013:

In Apr: 25 on the 25th (SFB via PH); 35 on the 28th and 20 on the Apr 30th (SFB).

In May (SFB): Between ten and 25 birds seen every day from the 1st to the 11th; six on the 16th, two on the 17th; 60 on the 20th; six on the 21st, one on the 22nd, and two on the 22nd.

In May **2014**: c110 on the Shunyi bank of The Mile on the 11th (DM & SFB), c85 on the 16th, c10 on the 17th (DM & SFB), c10 on the 19th (SFB).

c15 on the 26th Apr **2015** (SFB). [Nine on the 3rd May 2015 (TT); Five on the 21st May 2015 (SFB).]



Grey-tailed Tattler 灰尾漂鹬 *Tringa brevipes* [Monotypic]

Extremely rare.

One, believed to be the first record for Beijing.



One on the 12th Sep **2012** (found by PA, also seen by TT & SFB a few moments after the find).

Happily, it flew from the Shunyi to the Chaoyang bank of The Mile, where it posed for the above photograph.

Remarkably, the second record for Beijing was a flock of 49 [!] birds at Shahe Reservoir (which 'feeds' the Wenyu) on 25th May 2014 (CM via TT).

The third record was a singleton on 8th Sep 2014, also at Shahe Reservoir (CM via TT).

Common Sandpiper 矶鹬 *Actitis hypoleucos* [Monotypic]

Regular spring and autumn visitor, mostly in small numbers. Rare in winter.

All winter, earliest spring and 'four or more' records:

In **2009** (BIJ):

Six on the 30th Apr.

In May: 11 on 3rd, seven on 9th, 18 on the 11th (BIJ & SM), nine on the 13th, five on the 17th and 17 on the 18th.

In May **2010**: Three on the 4th (BIJ), 15 on the 10th (SM), ten on the 13th, eight on the 16th also eight on the 19th (SM).

In **2011**: Four on the 22nd May (SM via PH).

In **2012**: Eight on the 7th and the 8th May (SFB).

In **2013**:

One on the 23rd Mar (SFB).

In May: Seen on 19 of 22 days. About 25 birds seen on the 16th; 15 on the 17th; 12 on the 1st; between two and five from the 2nd to the 13th; one or two between the 20th and 23rd; and one on the 25th.

In **2014**:

One on the 6th Apr and 12 on the 25th Apr (SFB).

In May (SFB): c20 on the 16th and c10 on the 19th.

Two on the 2nd Nov on The Mile (SFB); One on the 13th Nov (SFB).

In **2015**:

One on the 11th Feb **2015** (SFB), perhaps the same as 13th November 2014 that had lingered somewhere on the Wenyu.

Presumably the same bird on the 4th Mar (SFB) and again on the 12th Mar (TT & SFB).

One on the 3rd Apr 2015 (ZX & SFB).

c20 on the 17th, five on the 19th and ten on the 21st May (SFB).

The Wenyu is great for wader watching. European birders whose local patch may occasionally yield a single Common Sandpiper, may be surprised to find that, at times on the Wenyu, the Common Sandpiper lives up to its name.

Red-necked Stint 红颈滨鹬 *Calidris ruficollis* [Monotypic]

Very rare.

Four on the 24th May **2011** (SM).

Little Stint 小滨鹬 *Calidris minuta* [Monotypic]

Rare. At least two records.

Recorded **prior to 2009** (BIJ).

One on the early morning of the 3rd May **2013** (SFB) on the muddy shore on the Shunyi side of the Wenyu, just downstream of The Peninsula. Seen from the Chaoyang side of The Mile.

Temminck's Stint 青脚滨鹬 *Calidris temminckii* [Monotypic]

Scarce spring visitor.



Two on the 3rd May **2009** (BIJ & SM).

Three on the 18th Apr **2010** (BIJ, RC & KC); Four on the 4th May (BIJ).

One on the 3rd May **2012** (SFB);

In **2013**:

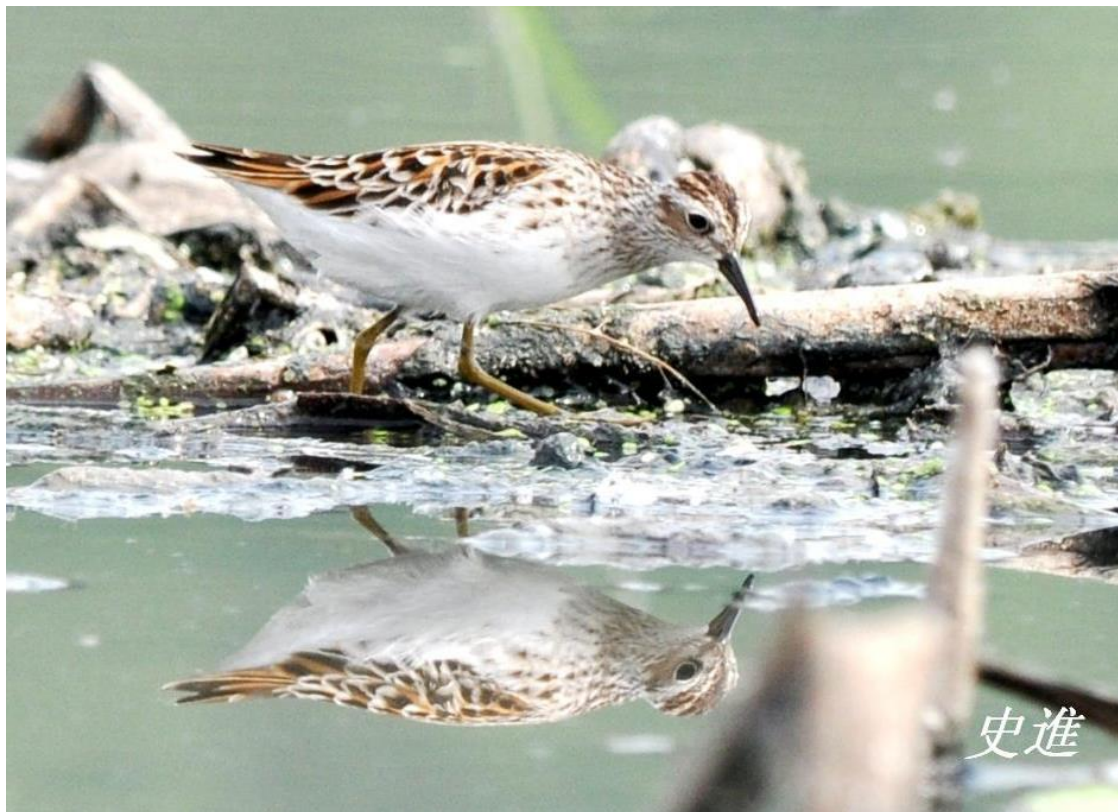
Two obliging birds on the 17th Apr 2013 (SFB, photo) – the earliest Wenyu record.

In May **2013** (SFB): Two birds seen on the 1st, three on the 3rd, and one on the 5th. All birds were on a small area of mud on the Chaoyang side of the Wenyu, near to the East Bank of the Lower Paddies.

One on the 26th Apr **2015** (SFB).

Long-toed Stint 长趾滨鹬 *Calidris subminuta* [Monotypic]

Regular May visitor sometimes in surprisingly large numbers for this species. Indeed, in recent years, the Wenyu has been the best place to see it in Beijing and perhaps one of the best places to see it in China.



In May **2009** (only BIJ unless otherwise noted) there was one on the 3rd (BIJ & SM) – the joint earliest record (along with 2013), 13 on the 6th, ten on the 7th, seven on the 8th, one on the 9th, two on the 17th (BIJ & SM), and two on the 18th.

The first birds of **2010** (five) appeared on the 4th May (BIJ); increasing to nine on the 10th; followed by one on the 13th (SM), four on the 16th (SM) and one on the 24th (SM) – the latest spring date.

One on the 22nd May **2011** (SM via PH).

Recorded in May **2012** (SFB).

In May **2013** (SFB): A group of four on the 3rd – the joint earliest record (along with 2009), a flock of six on the 4th (PA & SFB), two on the 8th, a group of five on the 20th, a flock of nine on the 21st (photo), and a single bird on the 22nd.

A flock of c30 on the 11th May **2014**, on the Lower Paddies (DM & SFB), easily surpassed the previous high count of 13. One on the 16th May (SFB).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper 尖尾滨鹬 *Calidris acuminata* [Monotypic]

Scarce May visitor.

One on the 13th May **2010** (SM).

Recorded in May **2012** (SFB).

In May **2013** (SFB): A group of five birds on the 3rd (first for the year); and single birds on the 4th, 5th, 7th and 8th.

Curlew Sandpiper 弯嘴滨鹬 *Calidris ferruginea* [Monotypic]

Rare. Four records, five dates.

One on the 9th May **2009** (BIJ).

One on the 16th May **2010** (SM).

In May **2013** (SFB): Two on the 3rd were also there on the 4th (PA & SFB), and a different bird on the 5th. All three birds were on the mud on the Shunyi side of the Wenyu, viewed from the Chaoyang side from the bank of the Lower Paddies.

Dunlin 黑腹滨鹬 *Calidris alpina* (presumably ssp *sakhalina*, but both ssp *actites* and ssp *arctica* could possibly occur)

Rare. Two records.

One in May **2012** (SFB).

One on the 13th Jan **2013** on the bank of The Peninsular (found by SFB, and also seen one week later by PA).

Black-headed Gull 红嘴鸥 *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* [Monotypic]

Scarce visitor. Six records, at least 27 birds.

Recorded on the 19th Mar **2006** (WQi & AB via PH); Two on 25th Apr (WQi).

Three on the 21st Mar **2009** (WQi).

Three, also, on the 21st Mar **2010** (WQi).

One on the 12th Sep **2012** (PA, TT & SFB).

A flock of 17 on the 24th Mar **2013** (SFB).

Common Gull 海鸥 *Larus canus heinei*

Very rare.

One, a "first-winter *heinei*-type" [PH], on the 19th Dec **2011** on the Tongzhou section of the river, had been on the *Bei Yun He* [North Canal] prior to its appearance on the Wenyu (PH).

Vega Gull 西伯利亚银鸥 *Larus vegae mongolicus* (蒙古银鸥).

The classification of 'Mongolian' Gull as a ssp of Vega Gull follows the *IOC list 2016 v6.1*

Rare. Two records, three (all ssp *mongolicus*).

One on the 21st Mar **2009** (WQi).

Two on the 7th Apr **2015** on the Upper Wenyu, upstream of the Chateau Lafite hotel (SFB).

Gull-billed Tern 鸥嘴噪鸥 *Gelochelidon nilotica affinis*

Rare. Two records, both in May; a total of eight birds.

In the early morning of the 3rd May **2013**, a flock of seven flew high north-westwards, following the Wenyu (SFB). The second record was on the 21st May (SFB) when one bird was seen hunting over the Wenyu, east of The Peninsular. Remarkably, four species of tern were seen on The Mile that day (SFB).

Little Tern 白额燕鸥 *Sternula albifrons albifrons*

Very rare.

Recorded before **2009** (BIJ).

Common Tern 普通燕鸥 *Sterna hirundo longipennis*

Scarce. At least five records, at least six birds.

Recorded **before 2009** (BIJ).

One on the 23rd Apr **2010** (WQi).

A group of three birds on the 17th May **2013** (SFB) on and around The Peninsula (within the upstream boundary of The Mile).

Perhaps the same three at the same place on the 21st, together with a flock of eight Whiskered Terns.

One on the 10th Jun (TT via PH).



Whiskered Tern 须浮鸥 *Chlidonias hybrid hybrida*

Rare. Three records, all in May.

One on the 15th May **2009** (BIJ).

Three fishing on the lower Mile on 21st May **2012** (SFB, photo of two of them).

In **2013**, a flock of eight birds on the 21st May, on and around The Peninsula (within the upstream boundary of The Mile), together with three Common Terns.



White-winged Black Tern 白翅浮鸥 *Chlidonias leucopterus* [Monotypic]

Scarce. At least four records; a minimum of 27 birds.

Recorded **before 2009** (BIJ).

A flock of 12 birds followed the Wenyu north-westwards on the 16th May **2013** and a flock of 13 birds did the same on the 21st May (SFB).

One juvenile on the 28th Sep **2014** (SFB).

Rufous Turtle Dove 山斑鸠 *Streptopelia orientalis orientalis*

Regular in all seasons in usually small numbers. One of the signature birds of the Wenyu.



Records of five or more birds:

25 on the 25th Apr **2006** (WQi) – the record Wenyu count; 24 on the 12th Nov (WQi).

14 on the 24th Mar **2008** (WQi); Ten on the 26th Apr (WQi)

Five on the 27th Jan **2009** (WQi); Nine on the 21st Mar (WQi); Eight on the 3rd Apr (WQi); 20 on the 25th Oct (WQi & LQW).

Six on the 23rd Apr **2010** (SFB).

Five on the 6th Oct **2012** (PA via PH).

Seven on the 7th Jan **2013** (SFB); Six on the 23rd Feb (TT); Five on the 16th Mar (SFB). [In May 2013: Up to four birds up seen on 19 of 22 days (SFB).]

Nine on the 12th Jan **2014** (SFB) – the only time the species was seen in seven January visits; 12 on the 25th Apr (SFB); Six on the 30th May (AM via PH).

Present in small numbers on many visits in **2015** (SFB).

Collared Dove 灰斑鳩 *Streptopelia decaocto decaocto*

Surprisingly scarce. Eight records, 12 birds.

One on the 20th Oct **2007** (WQi).

One on the 26th Apr **2008** (WQi).

Three on the 21st Mar **2009** (WQi); One on the 3rd Apr (WQi).

One on the 21st Jan **2010** (SFB).

One on the 3rd Jun **2012** (CH via PH).

One on the 23rd Feb **2013** (TT via PH).

Three on the 3rd Feb **2014** (AM via PH).

Spotted Dove 珠颈斑鳩 *Spilopelia chinensis chinensis*

Regular in all seasons in small numbers.

Records of five or more birds:

12 on the 17th Dec **2006** (DST).

Five on the 3rd Jun **2012** (CH via PH).

Six birds on the 20th May **2013** (SFB). [Only one or two birds seen on 15 of 22 days in May (SFB).] Five on the 21st Sep (RL, WX, SFB et al)

Seen on three of seven visits in Jan **2014** (SFB), with c15 on the 18th – the record Wenyu count [also four on the 23rd and three on the 26th (SFB)]

Present in small numbers on many visits in **2015** (SFB).

Northern Hawk-Cuckoo 北鷹鵲 *Hierococcyx hyperythrus* [Monotypic]

Very rare.

Recorded before **2009** (BIJ).

Indian Cuckoo 四声杜鹃 *Cuculus micropterus micropterus*

Regular spring and summer visitor. Its ubiquitous call is the backing track for the Wenyu from the second or third week in May all the way through to early August.

Records of three or more birds as well as the first records for the year:

Three on the 13th May **2009**. Three, also, on the 18th and 19th May, and five on the 23rd May (BIJ).

One on the 10th May **2010** (SM).

Three on the 22nd May **2011** (SM).

A few on the 21st May **2012** (SFB).

20 on the 3rd Jun **2012** (CH via PH) by the paddies on The Mile – the record count by ten.

The first for the year arrived on the 11th May **2013** (SFB); Up to three birds were heard calling on all subsequent visits. Ten on the 25th May (HLH, WX, GHB, BWX et al)

One on the 16th May **2014** (SFB).

Several on the 19th May **2015** (SFB).

Oriental Cuckoo 北方中杜鹃 *Cuculus optatus* [Monotypic]

Rare.

Recorded **before 2009** (BIJ).

One on the 24th May **2011** (SM).

Common Cuckoo 大杜鹃 *Cuculus canorus canorus*

Regular spring and summer visitor. Their young presumably hosted by Oriental Reed Warblers – several pairs of which nest in the paddies.



Records of three or more birds as well as the first records of the year:

Two on the 19th, eight on the 20th and eight again on the 23rd May **2009** (BIJ).

One on the 13th May **2010** (SM); Four on the 24th Jul (SM via PH).

Three on the 22nd May **2011** (SM via PH).

Ten on the 3rd Jun **2012** (CH via PH) by the paddies on The Mile.

The first for the year arrived on the 13th May **2013** (SFB). Up to three birds were heard calling on all subsequent visits (SFB).

Four on the 10th Jun **2013** (TT).

30 on the 30th May **2014** (AM) – the record Wenyu count by 20 birds.

“Many” on the 23rd May **2015** on The Mile (DM & SFB).

[Swinhoe's] Little Owl 纵纹腹小鸮 *Athene noctua plumipes*

Scarce visitor and/or breeder. One adult with young seen in 2012.

One on the 26th Feb **2005** (DST, & SM via PH).

One on the 19th Mar **2006** (WQi & AB).

Two on the 24th Mar **2007** (WQi).

One on the 23rd Feb **2008** (HZ).

Recorded **before 2009** (BIJ).

One adult with young on the 28th May **2012** (TT) in a tall tree on the Lower Wenyu section of the river. One at the same location on the 31st May (TT & SFB).



Short-eared Owl 短耳鸮 *Asio flammeus flammeus*

Rare. Two records only.

One on the 25th Oct **2009** (WQi).

One on the 9th Nov **2014** flew from the long grass on the Chaoyang bank of the river, adjacent to the Upper Paddies. It was immediately chased across the Shunyi side of the river by more than a dozen Magpies, which followed it high to the south-east (SFB).

'Beijing' Swift 普通楼燕 *Apus apus pekinensis*

Sporadic visitor, usually in small numbers but one large flock in June 2014.

One on the 26th Apr **2008** (WQi).

Ten on the 23rd Apr **2010** (WQi).

Two on the 3rd Jun **2012** (CH via PH).

Two on the 30th Apr **2013**. In May, a pair arrived on the 2nd, perhaps the same pair were seen on most subsequent visits. A total of six birds were seen on the 11th; ten on the 20th; and eight on the 29th May (SFB). One on the 10th Jun (TT via PH).

c75 on the 7th June **2014** – the largest flock by far. Among the 'Beijingers' were five Pacific Swifts (SFB).

Five on the 26th Apr **2015** (SFB).

Pacific Swift 白腰雨燕 *Apus pacificus pacificus*

Rare. At least three records, at least seven birds.

Recorded **before 2009** (BIJ).

One on the 4th June **2015** (SFB). Five on the 7th June, among a flock of c75 'Beijing' Swifts (SFB).

Dollarbird 三宝鸟 *Eurystomus orientalis cyanocollis*

Very rare.

One in early June **2011** flew over the Waterworks towards The Peninsular (SFB).

Black-capped Kingfisher 蓝翡翠 *Halcyon pileata* [Monotypic]

Scarce. Five records.

First recorded in May **2007** (SM).

One on the 12th Sep **2012** (PA, TT & SFB).

One was seen on the 20th May **2013** in trees by the Lower Wenyu [photo], about 18km downstream of The Mile.

One on the 14th (ZX) and almost certainly a different bird on the 21st May **2015** (ZX and SFB), between Wryneck Wood and the East Bank trees.



Common Kingfisher 普通翠鸟 *Alcedo atthis bengalensis*

Scarce. Has possibly bred.

Recorded on the 29th Apr **2006** (SW & BML via PH).

One on the 30th Apr **2009** (BIJ via PH). Two on the 11th May and one on the 17th May (BIJ & SM).

Two on the 4th (BIJ via PH), also two on the 19th May **2010** (SM via PH).

A pair were seen at the Lower Paddies on the 1st, 2nd and the 4th May **2013** (SFB). The fish that the male was seen to offer to the female was perhaps not to her liking as only one bird was seen subsequently (on five days between 9th and 18th May).

One on the 7th Apr **2015** at the Upper Wenyu (SFB); One on the 21st May 2015 (SFB).

Crested Kingfisher 冠鱼狗 *Megaceryle lugubris guttulata*

Scarce winter and spring visitor. Perhaps very few birds in total.



One on the 30th Nov **2008** (BIJ).

One on the 22nd Feb **2009** (BIJ); One on the 15th Mar (BIJ).

One on the 18th Jan **2013** on the Upper Wenyu (SFB); One on the Lower Wenyu on the 23rd Feb (TT).

A pair on the 12th Jan **2014** near the lower weir (LXM via TT via PH). One on the 9th Feb, perched in trees on the Shunyi side of the river, fewer than 100 yards 'below' the lower weir (DM & SFB).

One on the 4th and again on the 17th and the 18th Mar **2015** 50 yards 'below' the lower weir (SFB, photo); One on the 4th Nov (PH).

Common Hoopoe 戴胜 *Upupa epops epops*

Regular visitor in usually small numbers in all seasons, but more frequently in May.



Records of three or more birds:

Three on the 26th Feb **2005** (DST via PH).

Four on the 13th Jan **2007** (WQi).

Five on the 23rd Feb **2008** (HZ); Five on the 26th Apr (WQi); Five on the 20th Dec (WQi).

Three on the 18th Jan **2009** (BIJ); Four on the 22nd Feb (BIJ); Three on the 15th Mar (BIJ); Four on the 21st Mar (WQi); Three on the 12th Apr (BIJ); Six on the 30th Apr (BIJ); Three on the 7th May 2009; Nine on the 8th May 2009; Three on the 9th (BIJ) and also three on the 11th May (BIJ & SM); Four on the 13th May (BIJ); Four on the 17th, 18th and 20th May (BIJ).

Four on the 19th May **2010** (SM).

Three on the 12th Sep **2012** (PA, TT & SFB).

Three on the 13th and also three on the 18th Jan **2013** (SFB); Three on the 16th Mar (SFB); Three on the 25th Mar (HLH, WX et al via PH). In May, between one and six birds on 12 of 22 days (SFB).



Seen only on two of 15 visits between Jan and Mar **2014** (SFB): one on the 9th Jan and one on the 9th Feb. c15 on the 25th Apr (SFB). Ten on the 30th May (AM via PH).

Three on the 4th Nov **2015** (PH).

Eurasian Wryneck 蚊鷲 *Jynx torquilla chinensis*

Scarce passage migrant. Five records, six birds.

One on the 4th May **2010** (BIJ).

One on the 12th Sep **2012** (PA, TT & SFB).

Two on the 17th Apr **2013** in Wryneck Wood (SFB, photo). In May, one bird on the 1st and a different bird on the 5th, both in Wryneck Wood (SFB).



Rufous-bellied Woodpecker 棕腹啄木鸟 *Dendrocopos hyperythrus subrufinus*

Rare. Two records only.

One in mid-May **2011** in the public park near the southern end of the Lower Wenyu near Tongzhou (SFB).

One on the 19th May **2014** (SFB).

Great Spotted Woodpecker 星头啄木鸟 *Dendrocopos major brevirostris*

Singles or pairs regularly seen all times of the year (on about half of all visits). Has probably bred.

One or two birds seen on ten of 22 days in May **2013** (SFB). Five seen on the 3rd June 2013 (CH via PH) is the record Wenyu count

Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker 星头啄木鸟 *Dendrocopos canicapillus scintilliceps*

Singles or sometimes pairs regularly seen at all times of the year. Under-recorded because of its familiarity. Has very likely bred (mating observed by SFB on the 17th Apr 2013).

Three on the 23rd Feb **2013** (TT via PH) is the highest number recorded.



Grey-headed Woodpecker 灰头绿啄木鸟 *Picus canus jessoensis*

Regularly seen all times of the year, in mostly ones or twos.

Records of three or more birds:

Four on the 8th Apr **2007** (WQi)

Three on the 16th Feb **2008** (BIJ).

Three on the 3rd Apr **2009**; Four on the 27th Jan (BIJ).

Five seen on the 23rd Apr **2010** (SFB)

Three 23rd Feb **2013** (SFB). [One or two birds seen on 15 days in May 2013.]

Four on the 30th May **2014** (SFB).

Long-tailed Minivet 长尾山椒鸟 *Pericrocotus ethologus ethologus*

Rare. Three records.

Recorded **prior to 2009** (BIJ).

One female on the 15th Oct **2009** in White's Wood (SFB).

Two females on the 1st May **2013** (SFB, photo of one), also in White's Wood.



Brown Shrike 红尾伯劳 *Lanius cristatus* (ssp *cristatus*, but ssp *confusus* and ssp *lucionensis* may also occur)

Regular passage migrant, sometimes in double-figures.

Records of three or more birds, as well as first arrivals and the latest spring record:

One on the 8th May **2009**; Three on the 17th and also on the 18th May; 13 on the 19th May (BIJ); Three on the 20th and also on the 23rd May.



Three on the 12th Sep **2012** (PA, TT and SFB).

In May **2013**: The first for the year (two birds) arrived on the 13th. The species was seen on all subsequent visits up until the 26th. Peak passage was between 17th and 21st May when between ten and 15 birds were seen on each visit.

Three on the 16th May **2014**; Eight on the 18th and five on the 19th May (SFB).

c25 on the 19th May **2015** on the Shunyi side below The Mile (SFB), and c50 on the 20th on The Mile (SFB) – the highest Wenyu count. One on the 4th Jun 2015 (SFB) is the latest spring record.

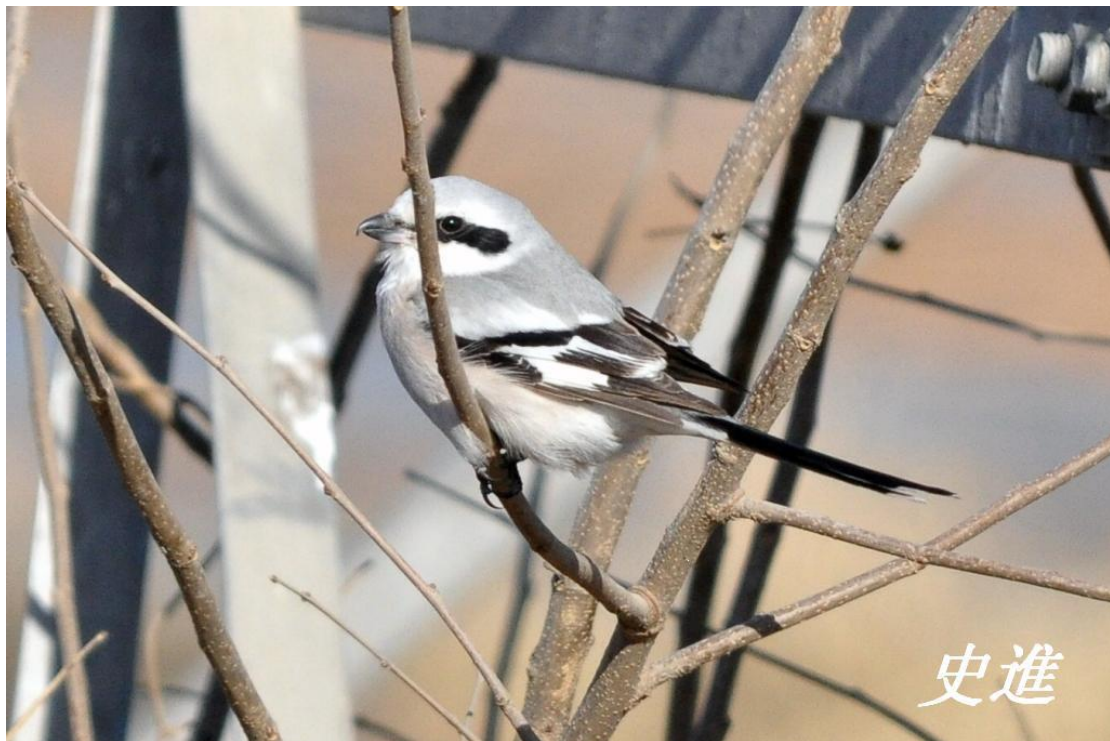
Long-tailed Shrike 棕背伯劳 *Lanius schach tricolor*

Very rare.

One on the 30th May **2014**, Lower Wenyu, near the garden centre adjacent to Jingmi Lu (AM).

Chinese Grey Shrike 楔尾伯劳 *Lanius sphenocercus sphenocercus*

Scarce or rare (perhaps only two birds).



Recorded **prior to 2009** (BIJ).

One on the 9th Jan **2014** next to a pylon near the Lower Paddies (SFB, photo), and presumably the same bird in the same area on the 9th and the 16th Feb. One on The Plateau on the 3rd Nov 2014 was perhaps the returning bird of the previous winter.

Perhaps the same bird, on The Plateau on the 11th Feb **2015** (SFB). One, perhaps also the same bird, on the 24th Mar on the north-side of the Lower Paddies was seen to pin a small rodent against the fork of a branch, before pulling it apart; while in the same camera field-of-view, a male Daurian Redstart looked on. One on the 28th Nov (TT & ML) may have been the same bird returning for a third winter.

Black-naped Oriole 黑枕黄鹂 *Oriolus chinensis diffusus*

Sporadic passage migrant and possible breeder.

In May **2009** (BIJ): One on the 8th, 13th, and 17th (also SM); Two on the 19th.

In **2010** (SM): One on the 16th May and the 19th May. Two on the 24th Jul.

Five on the 24th May 2011 (SM).

In **2012**: One on the 31st May (TT), three on the 3rd Jun (CH via PH), and five on the 12th Sep (PA, TT & SFB).

Ten on the 25th May **2013** (HLH, WX et al via PH).

Three on the 30th May **2014** (AM).

Black Drongo 黑卷尾 *Dicrurus macrocercus cathoecus*

Regular in small numbers usually from the middle or late May. Has probably bred.

Records of two or more birds, as well as first arrivals:

One on the 9th and two on the 23rd May **2009** (BIJ).

One on the 19th May **2010** (SM).

One on the 22nd May **2011** (SM).

Ten on the 3rd Jun **2012** (CH via PH).

In May **2013** (SFB): The first for the year arrived on the 11th; between one and four birds were seen on each of all of the subsequent visits; also, two on the 25th May (HLH, WX et al via PH). Two on the 10th Jun (TT).

In May **2014**: c5 on the 19th, the first records of the year (SFB); 12 on the 30th May (AM via PH).

Hair-crested Drongo 发冠卷尾 *Dicrurus hottentottus brevirostris*

Very rare. One record of two birds.

Two (one adult, one juvenile) on the 9th Aug **2012** (TT).

Eurasian Jay 松鸦 *Garrulus glandarius pekingensis*

Very rare.

Recorded **before 2009** (BIJ).

Azure-winged Magpie 灰喜鹊 *Cyanopica cyanus interposita*

Fairly common, except in the summer. Breeds locally, but numbers uncertain.

Records of 20 or more birds (all details via PH); in date-of-season order:

Winter

55 on the 19th Dec 2011 on the Tongzhou section of the river, in two flocks, one of which was c40 strong (PA).

40 on the 9th Jan 2013; 20 on the 13th Jan 2013; 20 on the 14th Jan 2013; 20 on the 18th Jan 2013; 20 on the 20th Jan 2013; 30 on the 21st Jan 2010.

26 on the 16th Feb 2008; 50 on the 23rd Feb 2008; 50 on the 23rd Feb 2008; 39 on the 23rd Feb 2013; 30 on the 26th Feb 2005.

Spring

30 on the 4th Mar 2010; 60 on the 10th Mar 2014; 59 on the 21st Mar 2009. 20 on the 24th Mar 2007. 20 on the 26th Mar 2006; 22 on the 1st Apr 2007; 30 on the 25th Apr 2006; 21 on the 26th Apr 2008.

[Between six and 20 birds were seen on 20 of the 22 visits in May 2013]

Summer

20 on the 3rd Jun 2012.

Autumn

20 on the 21st Sep 2013.

30 on the 20th Oct 2007; 40 on the 25th Oct 2009.

22 on the 12th Nov 2006; 100 on the 16th Nov 2008 – the record Wenyu count.

Red-billed Blue Magpie 红嘴蓝鹊 *Urocissa erythrorhyncha brevivexilla*

Rare. Two records.

Recorded **prior to 2009** (BIJ).

One by the Lower Paddies on the 3rd Jun **2012** (CH via PH).

Common Magpie 喜鹊 *Pica pica serica*

Common visitor. Regular breeding bird in small numbers on all sections of the river.

Trip totals of more than 50 birds (details via PH); in date-of-season order:

Winter

50 on the 17th Dec 2006.

100 on the 10th Jan 2014; 50 on the 13th Jan 2007; 80 on the 16th Jan 2005; 160 on the 26th Jan 2010 (WQi) – the record Wenyu count; 135 on the 27th Jan 2009.

88 on the 16th Feb 2008; 100 on the 23rd Feb 2008; 60 on the 26th Feb 2005.

Spring

50 on the 4th Mar 2010; 50 on the 10th Mar 2014; 112 on the 21st Mar 2009; 85 on the 21st Mar 2010; 100 on the 23rd Mar 2013; 80 on the 24th Mar 2007.

50 on the 1st Apr 2007; 50 on the 8th Apr 2007; 111 on the 26th Apr 2008; 70 on the 23rd Apr 2010; 60 on the 25th Apr 2010.

[In May 2013: Between ten and 40 birds were seen on 20 of 22 visits, and c50 birds were seen on the 25th and the 26th]

Autumn

60 on the 20th Oct 2007; 50 on the 21st Oct 2006; 110 on the 25th Oct (2009);

62 on the 12th Nov 2006; 90 on the 16th Nov 2008.

Daurian Jackdaw 达乌里寒鸦 *Coloeus dauuricus*

A regular winter visitor and passage migrant, sometimes in very large numbers.

The largest gathering was c2000, in the late afternoon of 4th December 2013, over the Upper Wenyu [photo of a small section of that flock is on the following page].

The first birds of the autumn appear in October and large flocks can be encountered any time from then until March.

Numbers decrease significantly after mid-March. However, in recent years, there have been two 'mixed flock' records (with Eastern



Rooks) in April; and also remarkably late flocks of c20 and c50 birds immature birds in early May.

Here are the records of 100 and more birds from the beginning of October through to the end of March, and all records outside of those months (all in date-of-season order):

Autumn

112 (TT) also c305 (flocks of 5 + c250 +c50 "migrating south at great height over the Wenyu river") on the 6th Oct 2012 (PA via PH); 300 on the 20th Oct 2007 (WQi); 1,200 on the 21st Oct 2006 (WQi). 30 on the 25th Oct 2009 (WQi).

400 on the 12th Nov 2006 (WQi); 160 on the 16th Nov 2008 (WQi); 230 on the 28th Nov 2015 (TT & ML).

Winter

c2000, in the late afternoon of 4th December 2013 (SFB, photo of a small section of the flock) – the record Wenyu count.



c500 on the 9th Jan 2013 (SFB); 200 on the 13th Jan 2007 (WQi); c1,100 on the 16th Jan 2013 (SFB, photo of two); 200 on the 18th Jan 2013 (SFB); 150 on the 26th Jan 2010 (WQi).

500 on the 23rd Feb 2008 (HZ); c350 on the 23rd Feb 2013 (TT).

Spring

300 (the vast majority were adults, with a few immatures) on the 6th Mar 2010 (SFB); Several hundred on the 6th March 2010 (SFB); c150 on the 10th Mar 2013 (SFB); 200 on the 13th Mar 2005 (BA).

c100 (all immatures) on the 1st Apr 2014 (SFB); c30 on the 1st Apr 2014 (SFB); A mixed flock of c7-800 Eastern Rooks (c350-400) and Daurian Jackdaws (c350-400) on the 5th Apr 2015 on The Mile, where another mixed flock of c300 of the same two species was seen on the 8th Apr 2015 (SFB). One on the 16th Apr 2012 (SFB).

c20 1st winter birds on the 3rd May 2012 (SFB). On the 4th May 2013 (PA & SFB) c50 immature birds flew over White's Wood (from the Chaoyang to the Shunyi side of the river).

Oriental Rook 秃鼻乌鸦 *Corvus pastinator* [This does not follow *IOC list 2016 v6.1*, which classifies *pastinator* as a subspecies of *Corvus frugilegus*.]

Sporadic early spring visitor, occasionally in large numbers.



One on the 15th Apr **2006** (WQi & LQW).

A small party on the 6th March **2010** (SFB, photo on the previous page).

30 on the 1st Apr **2014** over the Lower Paddies (SFB).

One on the 12th Mar **2015** (TT & SFB). A mixed flock of c7-800 Eastern Rooks and Daurian Jackdaws on the 5th Apr on The Mile, where another mixed flock of c300 of the same two species was seen on the 8th Apr (SFB).

Oriental Crow 小嘴乌鸦 *Corvus orientalis* [This does not follow *IOC list 2016 v6.1*, which classifies *orientalis* as a subspecies of *Corvus corone*.]

Regular visitor except in summer, usually in small numbers.

Records of ten or more birds:

Ten on the 29th Mar **2006** (WQi); 400 on the 15th Apr (WQi & LQW).

40 on the 13th Jan **2007** (WQi); 20 on the 11th Mar (WQi & LQW); 50 on the 24th Mar (WQi).

130 on the 16th Feb **2008** (WQi); 20 on the 23rd Feb (HZ); 27 on the 16th Nov (WQi).

160 on the 27th Jan **2009** (WQi); 21 on the 21st Mar (WQi).

130 on the 26th Jan **2010** (WQi); 40 on the 21st Mar (WQi); 30 on the 23rd Apr (WQi).

20 on the 13th Jan **2013** (SFB); Ten on the 16th Jan (SFB); 50 on the 18th Jan (SFB); 20 on the 31st Jan (SFB).

Ten on the 18th Jan **2014** (SFB); Ten on the 3rd Feb (SFB).

Large-billed Crow 大嘴乌鸦 *Corvus macrorhynchos mandshuricus*

Surprisingly scarce considering that this species roosts in large numbers in central Beijing.

Two on the 26th Mar **2006** (via PH).

Nine on the 16th Nov **2008** (via PH).

20 on the 21st Jan **2010** (SFB).

Two on the 7th Jan **2013** (SFB); Two on the 23rd Feb (TT); 15 on the 23rd Mar (DVD et al via PH). In May (SFB), one on the 20th and presumably the same bird on the 21st, and two together on the 23rd.

Bohemian Waxwing 太平鸟 *Bombycilla garrulous garrulous*

A group of four on the 5th Mar **2013** on the west side of the Upper Wenyu, one mile south of Shahe reservoir (SFB).



Marsh Tit 沼泽山雀 *Poecile palustris* (ssp *hellmayri* or perhaps *jeholicus*)

Regular, but in very small numbers.

Seen or heard in the order of one in every ten visits in winter and spring (SFB).

Only three records of more than two birds:

Six on the 13th Jan 2007 and three on the 8th Apr.

Ten on the 23rd Feb **2008** (HZ) – is the record Wenyu count.

Willow Tit 褐头山雀 *Poecile montanus* (perhaps ssp *baicalensis*)

Very rare.

Recorded **before 2009** (BIJ).

Coal Tit 煤山雀 *Periparus ater ater*

Very rare.

Recorded **before 2009** (BIJ).

Eastern Great Tit 远东山雀 *Parus minor minor*

Seemingly scarce. Five records, 11 birds. Clearly under-recorded.

One on the 16th Jun **2012** (J-EN via PH).

Two on the 16th and singles on the 23rd and 26th May **2013** (SFB).

Six on the 10th Mar **2014** (SFB).

Yellow-bellied Tit 黄腹山雀 *Parus venustulus* (Monotypic)

Sporadic visitor. Large numbers in April 2013, with up to ten staying into May, and a straggler in to June. Otherwise a rare bird.

30 on the 27th April **2006** (WQi).

Not recorded for almost seven years until the 17th Apr **2013**, when a flock of c20 birds arrived on the Lower Wenyu, one mile south of The Mile (SFB) –

Numbers increased up to the 24th April (SFB, photo), when c60 birds were present (SFB). Several stragglers from this large influx remained into early May 2013 (SFB), with a flock of several birds seen on the East Bank on the 1st; and a flock of about 10 birds on the 4th, 5th and 6th at the Lower Wenyu, about 2km downstream of The Mile (SFB). Also, one on the 10th Jun (TT via PH).

Eight in two groups (five and three) on the 25th Apr **2014** (SFB).



Chinese Penduline Tit 中华攀雀 *Remiz consobrinus* (Monotypic)

Rare. Four records, seven birds.

One on the 7th May **2012** (SFB).

Two on 3rd June **2012** (CH via PH).

Two on the 9th Apr **2015** (TT); Two on the 3rd May (TT).

Mongolian Lark 蒙古百灵 *Melanocorypha mongolica* (Monotypic)

Rare. Four occurrences, 14 birds.



One on the 21st Sep **2013** (Found by ZX, also seen by RL, WX, SFB, et al).

One on the 26th Jan **2014** (SFB).

Three on the 8th Jan **2015**, and then a flock of 11 on the 9th, reducing to eight on 11th Jan (SFB, photo of one), all on The Mile between the Plateau and the rough ground by the side of the river. One on the 12th Mar (TT & SFB).

Greater Short-toed Lark 大短趾百 *Calandrella brachydactyla orientalis*

Very rare.

One on the 5th May **2015** (TT).

Asian Short-toed Lark 亚洲短趾百灵 *Calandrella cheleensis* (ssp *cheleensis* or *beicki*)

Rare. Two records, 13 birds.

Nine on the 10th Apr **2015** (SFB) on the burnt stubble of the Upper Paddies;
Four on the 28th Nov (TT & ML).

Crested Lark 凤头百灵 *Galerida cristata leautungensis*

Very rare.

One on the 25th Mar **2013**, on the path between White's Wood and the paddocks.

Eurasian Skylark 云雀 *Alauda arvensis* (ssp *pekinensis*, *intermedia*, or *kiborti*)

Sporadic visitor.

15 on the 26th Mar **2006** (WQi, XB, & LQW).

20 on the 25th Oct **2009** (WQi).

20 on the 28th Mar **2010** (BIJ); 10 on the 18th Apr (BIJ, RC & KC).

20 on the 8th Mar **2011** (SM).

Two on the 6th Oct **2012** (TT via PH), also eight (groups of two and six) recorded on the same day (PA via PH).

Six along an eight mile stretch of the Lower Wenyu on the 23rd Feb **2013** (TT).
13 on the 10th Mar (SFB); 20 towards the end of March (SFB).

c30 on the 6th Mar **2014** (SFB). Eight on the 6th Apr (SFB).

c80 on the 24th Mar **2015** (SFB) – the record Wenyu count. Seven on the 2nd
and also on the 3rd Apr (ZX & SFB). Two on the 28th Nov (TT & ML).

Brandt's Horned Lark 白角百灵 *Eremophila brandti* [this does not follow *IOC list 2016 v6.1*, which classifies *brandti* as a subspecies of "Horned Lark" *Eremophila alpestris brandti*]

Very rare.

A flock of six on the 28th Nov **2015** (TT & ML).

Chinese Bulbul 白头鹎 *Pycnonotus sinensis sinensis*

Regular in small numbers.

Records of three or more birds:

Four on the 21st Mar **2008** (WQi).

Three on the 3rd Apr **2009** (WQi); Three on the 25th Oct (WQi & LQW).

Four on the 23rd Apr **2010** (WQi).

20 on the 3rd Jun **2012** (CH via PH); Four on the 16th Jun (J-EN); Three on the 5th Sep on the Tongzhou section (PH).

Three on the 23rd Feb **2013** (TT); Several on the 13th May (SFB); Five on the 25th May (HLH, WX et al via PH).

Five on the 25th Apr 2014; Four on the 18th May **2014** (SFB).

Sand Martin 崖沙燕 *Riparia riparia* (ssp *taczanowskii* or *ijimae*)

Rare. Two records, each involving two birds.

Two on the 22nd Mar **2009** (BIJ).

Two on the 16th May **2014**, flew low over the river by the East Bank, and continued upstream until lost in the binoculars (SFB).

[Sand Martin 崖沙燕 *Riparia riparia*/Pale Martin 淡色沙燕 *Riparia diluta fohkienensis*]

A single bird over the Wenyu on the 22nd May **2013**, briefly seen from the East Bank of the Lower Paddies. Sand Martin is a rare bird on the Wenyu. Pale Martin is not on the Wenyu list.

Swallow 家燕 *Hirundo rustica* (ssp *gutturalis*, but presumably ssp *saturata* must also occur)

Common visitor from April to October; regular in small numbers in March.

The records of 100 or more birds, and earliest birds of the year (which arrived on 21st March in four of the years):

Six on the 26th Mar **2006** (WQi, XB & LQW). 100 on the 25th Apr (WQi).

30 on the 1st Apr **2007** (WQi).

75 on the 26th Apr **2008** (WQi).

Four on the 21st Mar **2009** (WQi).

Three on the 21st Mar **2010** (WQi).

One on the 21st Mar **2013** (ZX & SFB).

[In May 2013 (SFB): Between an estimated 10 and 100 birds seen on each of the 22 visits: with an average of 30 birds per day during the early part of the month, 50 per day during the middle period, and 45 per day during the last ten days of the month.]

Two on the 21st Mar **2014** (SFB); 100 on the 25th Apr (SFB); 150 on the 11th May (DM & SFB).

c200 on the 24th Mar **2015** (SFB).

Asian House Martin 烟腹毛脚燕 *Delichon dasypus dasypus*

Very rare.

One on the 19th Apr **2014** hawking insects among a flock of c200 Swallows on the Shunyi side of the river, about 300 yards south of the lower weir (DM & SFB).

Red-rumped Swallow 金腰燕 *Cecropis daurica japonica*

Fairly common visitor from April to September.

Records of 20 or more, and earliest birds.

Two on the 1st Apr **2007** (WQi).

27 on the 26th Apr **2008** (WQi).

Six on the 22nd Mar **2009** (BIJ).

One on the 18th Apr **2010** (BIJ).

In May **2013**: First for the year seen on the 6th (two birds); and two again on the 8th. Seen on most visits in mid-May (between one and six birds). Three birds were seen on the 23rd and about 40 birds on the 29th, which was the only day of the month that the number of Red-rumped Swallows exceeded that of Swallows. The last birds of the year (20) were seen on the 21st September (RL, WX, SFB et al).

20 on the 25th Apr **2014**.

c20 on the 2nd Apr **2015** (ZX & SFB) is the earliest spring record.

Asian Stubtail 鳞头树莺 *Urosphena squameiceps* [Monotypic]

Very rare.

Recorded **before 2009** (BIJ).

Manchurian Bush Warbler 远东树莺 *Cettia canturians* [Monotypic]

Rare.

Recorded **before 2009** (BIJ).

One on the 16th May **2010** (SM).

Silver-throated Tit 银喉长尾山雀 *Aegithalos glaucogularis glaucogularis/vinaceus*

Inexplicably rare.

Recorded **before 2009** (BIJ).

12 on the 7th Jan **2013** (SFB).

Dusky Warbler 褐柳莺 *Phylloscopus fuscatus fuscatus*

Regular May visitor in small numbers.

“Present” on the 29th Apr **2006** (SW & BML via PH).

In May **2009** (BIJ): One on the 3rd and 14th; four on the 18th and 19th; three on the 20th.

Two on the 4th May **2010** (BIJ); three on the 10th, one on the 13th, four on the 16th and five on the 19th (SM).

Four on the 22nd May **2011** (SM).

Three and two on the 6th Oct **2012** (TT & PA respectively).

In May **2013**, one or two birds seen on 12 of 22 visits (SFB). Two on the 21st Sep (RL, WX, SFB et al).

Two on the 16th and two on the 18th May **2014** (SFB); Four on the 19th May (SFB); c10 on the 20th May (SFB).

Buff-throated Warbler 棕腹柳莺 *Phylloscopus subaffinis* (Monotypic)

Extremely rare. The only record for Beijing.

The closest breeding population is in the mountains of Zhejiang province. Only known to winter in south China and SE Asia (source: Birds of East Asia).



One, on the late afternoon of the 28th Sep **2014** (SFB, photo), found dangling upside down in a bird trapper's mist net that had been placed in a narrow clearing between riverside reeds, immediately downstream of the small tributary that skirts the upstream Lower Paddies.

There was no trapper in sight and no telling how long it had been there.

Sadly, despite being carefully untangled from the net, the bird died soon afterwards. It was subsequently identified by PA using the above and other photos.

Armand's Warbler 棕眉柳莺 *Phylloscopus armandii armandii*

Very rare.

One singing on The Peninsula, close to the east entrance to the Water Works, on the 10th and again on the 11th May **2013** (SFB).

Radde's Warbler 巨嘴柳莺 *Phylloscopus schwarzi* (Monotypic)

Regular May visitor (all but two records) in small numbers, although a significant 'fall' occurred on the 17th May 2013.



One on the 29th Apr **2006** (SW) – the only April record.

Two on the 20th and one on the 23rd May **2009** (BIJ).

One on the 10th, two on the 13th, two on the 16th and on the 19th May **2010** (SM).

One on the 22nd May **2011** (SM).

One on the 23rd May **2012** (SFB); One on the 6th Oct (SFB).

In May **2013** (SFB): The first for the year (three birds) arrived on the 3rd. Numbers dropped to two on the 4th and one on the 5th. No birds were seen from the 6th to the 9th. Singles were seen on the 10th and 11th and three birds were present on the 16th. An unprecedented (in Wenyu terms) 25 birds arrived on the 17th (about half of these were in Wryneck Wood). All but one of the Wenyu birds had departed by the following day. Two on the 21st were the last birds of the month. A small number were heartily singing, including the bird on the 23rd (SFB, photo). Also, one on the 21st Sep 2013 (ZX, RL, WX, SFB, et al).

One, singing, on the on the 16th May **2014** (SFB).

Three on the 23rd May **2015** (DM & SFB);

Pallas's Warbler 黄腰柳莺 *Phylloscopus proregulus* (Monotypic)

Regular spring visitor, usually arriving in April or May (although there are two records in March).

Records of five or more birds, and earliest arrivals:

Two on the 25th Apr **2006** (WQi).

Two on the 6th May **2009** (BIJ).

Five on the 4th Apr **2010** (BIJ); 29 on the 18th Apr (BIJ, RC & KC); Ten on the 10th May (SM); Five on the 13th 2010.

c100 on the 17th Apr **2013** – the record Wenyu count. Several were seen on most days in early May (there was a peak of c15 birds on the 1st). A few were seen in mid-May.

One on the 4th Mar **2015** – the earliest Wenyu arrival, and also one on the 18th Mar (SFB); One on the 3rd Apr (ZX & SFB).

Chinese Leaf Warbler 云南柳莺 *Phylloscopus yunnanensis* (Monotypic)

Rare. Two records of single singing birds.

One (presumably the same bird) was singing in the woods opposite the Lower Paddies from the 1st to the 3rd and again on the 5th May **2013** (SFB). A second bird was singing at the Lower Wenyu on the 2nd, about 400 yards downstream of The Mile (PA & SFB).

Yellow-browed Warbler 黄眉柳莺 *Phylloscopus inornatus* (Monotypic)

Regular in April and May in small numbers.

Records of five or more birds, and earliest arrivals:

Three on the 25th Apr **2006** (WQi).

Two on the 30th Apr **2009** (BIJ).

Five on the 18th May **2009** (BIJ).

Five on the 23rd Apr **2010** (WQi); 20 on the 4th May (BIJ); 20 on the 10th May (SM); Five on the 13th May (SM); 20 on the 16th May (SM); Five on the 19th May (SM).

Five on the 24th May **2011** (SM).

20 on the 8th May **2012** (SFB);

In May **2013** (SFB): Ten birds on the 1st [several on the 2nd, and between one and three birds on most visits up to the 21st]. Five on the 21st Sep (RL, WX, SFB et al).

Eight on the 25th Apr **2014** (SFB).

A few birds seen on most visits from late April to mid-May **2015** (SFB).

Hume's Warbler 淡眉柳莺 *Phylloscopus humei humei*

Rare. Two records, three birds.



One, singing, on the 1st May **2013** in the East Bank trees (SFB, photo).

Two on the 26th Apr **2014** (SFB).

Arctic Warbler 极北柳莺 *Phylloscopus borealis borealis*

Rare. Two records, three birds.

One singing on the 23rd May **2013** at the Upper Wenyu, about 12km upstream of The Mile.

Two singing on the 23rd May **2015** (DM & SFB).

[Arctic Warbler 极北柳莺 *Phylloscopus borealis* or Kamchatka Leaf Warbler 堪察加柳莺 *Phylloscopus examinandus* (Monotypic)]

Scarce. Five records, at least six birds [this is tentative as not known if earlier records are of singing birds].



One on the 18th, two on the 19th May and one on the 20th May **2009** (BIJ).

Three on the 24th May **2011** (SM).

One on the 17th May **2013** (SFB) in the East Bank trees.

Two-barred Greenish Warbler 双斑绿柳莺 *Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus*

Recently regular May visitor in small numbers.

Ten on the 22nd May **2005**, on the Chaoyang side of the river (BA).

One on the 20th May **2009** (BIJ).

One on the 13th, two on the 16th and two on the 19th May **2010** (SM).

One singing on the 6th, one on the 16th, and one singing on the 26th May **2013** (SFB), all in trees near to the Lower Paddies.

Two on the 17th May **2014**, singing in East Bank trees (DM & SFB).

Six, all singing, on the 20th and three on the 21st May **2015** (SFB), and also three on the 23rd May (DM & SFB) – all on The Mile.

Pale-legged Leaf Warbler 淡脚柳莺 *Phylloscopus tenellipes* (Monotypic)

Rare. Two records

One on the 20th May **2013** (SFB), singing from roadside trees 2km downstream of The Mile on the Chaoyang side of the river. One, also singing, about 3km further downstream on the same date (seen about thirty minutes after the first).

[Pale-legged Leaf Warbler 淡脚柳莺 *Phylloscopus tenellipes* or Sakhalin Leaf Warbler 库页岛柳莺 *Phylloscopus borealoides*]

Rare. Three records.

Three, on the 20th May **2013** (SFB), between two and 15km downstream of The Mile. Obviously, very likely to have been Pale-legged Leaf Warblers, two of which were identified earlier on the same day. But, because they were silent, the identification to species level cannot be proven.

Eastern Crowned Warbler 冕柳莺 *Phylloscopus coronatus* (Monotypic)

Very rare. One on 16th May **2010** (SM) is the only record.

Claudia's Warbler 冠纹柳莺 *Phylloscopus claudiae* (Monotypic)

Rare. Two records only, both in early May.



One on the 10th May **2010** (SM).

One on the early morning of the 4th May **2013**, singing from the tops of trees by the East Bank, was found by Per Alström (also seen by SFB, photo).

Oriental Reed Warbler 东方大苇莺 *Acrocephalus orientalis* (Monotypic)

Regular visitor that usually arrives and starts singing from mid-May. Many stay to breed.

[The following records (except SFB's) are via PH.]

In May **2009** (BIJ, and SM when indicated): One on the 7th (& SM), three on the 11th (& SM), two on the 13th, three on the 14th, four on the 17th (& SM); six on the 18th, eight on the 19th, and 11 on the 20th.

In **2010**: One on the 10th May (SM); Three on the 16th May (SM); One on the 17th May (SFB); Two on the 19th May 2010 (SM); many on the 30th May (SFB); Three on the 24th Jul (SM).

Five on the 22nd May **2011** (SM).

Three on the 21st May **2012** (SFB); Two on the 31st May (TT); 10 on the 3rd Jun (CH).

In **2013**: The first for the year (two birds) arrived on the 16th May (SFB). Between two and three birds singing on each of the nine subsequent visits in May (SFB). Nine on the 10th Jun (TT).

Five on the 16th and several on the 18th May **2014** (SFB); Eight on the 30th May (AM). "Present" on the 13th Jun (TT).

Three or four birds holding territory on the Upper Paddies from mid-May **2015** (SFB).

Black-browed Reed Warbler 黑眉苇莺 *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps* (Monotypic)

Regular visitor during a three-week Spring and early Summer window.



Similar pattern as the Oriental Reed Warbler in that it arrives and starts singing in mid-May. Peak numbers can be seen from the end of May.

Three on the 18th, four on the 19th and eight on the 20th May **2009** (BIJ).

Three on the 10th May **2010** (SM). Two on the 13th May (SM via PH); Four on the 16th May (SM); Four on the 19th May (SM). Many on the 30th May (SFB).

Two on the 22nd May **2011** (SM via PH).

A few singing on the 21st May **2012** (SFB), several on the 31st May (TT via PH), six on the 3rd Jun (CH via PH).

The first for **2013** arrived on the 16th May (SFB). Between one and four birds singing on each subsequent visit in May. Three on the 10th June (TT via PH).

One on the 17th May **2014**, singing from the Upper Paddies was the first of the year (DM & SFB).

Two or three birds singing heartily among the Upper Paddies from mid-May **2015** (SFB).

Manchurian Reed Warbler 远东苇 *Acrocephalus tangorum* (Monotypic)

Very rare.

One on 16th May **2013** singing at the Lower Paddies (SFB).

Thick-billed Warbler 厚嘴苇莺 *Iduna aedon rufescens*

Recently regular visitor in May in small numbers. One September record.

First recorded (and photographed) on 14th Sep **2003** (BA).

One on the 14th, one on the 18th, one on the 19th and two on the 20th May **2009** (BIJ).

One on the 24th May **2011** (SM).

In May **2013** (SFB): Arrived on the 16th. Three on the 21st; two on the 16th and 25th; and one on the 17th, 18th, 23rd and 26th. The East Bank trees were preferred.

One on the 18th May **2014** (SFB).

One on the 17th and two on the 19th May **2015** on the Shunyi side of the river, downstream of the lower weir.

Pere David's Bush Warbler 北短翅莺 *Bradypterus davidi davidi*

Rare. Three records, probably two birds.



The first was found and photographed at 4.15pm on 28th May **2012**, at the Lower Paddies (SFB, photo). One, probably the same bird, was singing on the 31st May (TT).

One on the 26th May **2013** in Lower Wenyu bushes, about 15km downstream of The Mile (SFB).

Lanceolated Warbler 矛斑蝗莺 *Locustella lanceolata lanceolata*

Scarce. Nine records, at least 12 birds.

One on the 19th May **2010** (SM).

One on the 24th May **2011** (SM).

Six on the 30th May **2012** in the Lower Paddies (SFB) – the highest Wenyu count; One on the 31st May (TT via PH); One on the 12th Sep (PA, TT & SFB).

One on the 21st and one on the 25th May **2013** (SFB, photo) – both at the Upper Paddies

Three on the 18th May **2014** in the Upper Paddies (SFB).

Two on the 23rd May **2015** (DM & SFB).



Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler 小蝗莺 *Locustella certhiola certhiola*

Regular visitor to the paddies in small numbers from late May to early June.

One on the 20th May **2008** (BIJ).

One on the 13th May **2009** (BIJ) – the earliest record.

Four on 2nd June **2010** (SFB) is the record Wenyu count.

Three on the 28th and two on the 30th May **2012** in the Lower Paddies (SFB, photo of one on the 28th). Several on the 31st May (TT via PH); One on the 3rd Jun (CH via PH).

One on the 21st, two on the 23rd and one on the 25th May **2013** (SFB), all at the Upper Paddies. Surprisingly, not difficult to catch at least a glimpse of.

One on the 16th May **2014** (SFB); One on the 30th May (DM & SFB); Three or four on the 7th Jun (SFB).

Two on the 4th Jun **2015** (SFB).



Fan-tailed Warbler 棕扇尾莺 *Cisticola juncidis tinnabulans*

Regular in small numbers from early May (although has arrived in April once).
Probably breeds annually in small numbers.



Records of four or more birds, and earliest record:

Four on the 24th Jul **2010** (SM).

Several on the 14th May **2012** (SFB), also several on the 31st May (TT).

[In **2013**: One or two birds recorded on the majority of the 22 visits in May (SFB). Three on the 10th Jun (TT).]

One on the 26th Apr **2014** (SFB); Five on the 18th May (SFB).

Pere David's Laughingthrush 山噪鹛 *Pterorhinus davidi davidi*

Very rare.

One record of ten birds on the 23rd Feb **2008** (HZ). Breeds in the hills and mountains of Beijing, quite close to the upper reaches of the Wenyu.

Webb's Parrotbill 棕头鸦雀 *Sinosuthora webbiana* (ssp *mantschurica* or *fulvicauda*)

Sporadic visitor.

One on the 12th Apr **2009** (BIJ).

Five on the 25th Apr **2010** (SM); Two on the 19th May; Two on the 24th Jul.

Four on the 6th Oct **2012** (TT via PH).

One on the 23rd May **2013** and perhaps the same bird on the 25th in West Bank bushes adjacent to the Upper Paddies (SFB).

c20 on the 20th Jan **2015** in the reedbed by the tributary adjacent to the upstream Lower Paddies (SFB) – the joint record Wenyu count along with: c20 on the 7th Apr 2015 at the Upper Wenyu (SFB).

Beijing Babbler 山鹛 *Rhopophilus pekinensis* (Monotypic)

Rare. Two records of a species that is widespread in the hills and mountains of Beijing.

One on the 20th Dec **2009** (BIJ).

One pair on the 17th Mar **2015** in scrub on the Shunyi side of the river, one mile downstream of the lower weir (SFB).

Japanese White-eye 暗绿绣眼鸟 *Zosterops japonicus japonicus*

Very rare.

Recorded **before 2009** (BIJ).

[Chestnut-flanked White-eye 红胁绣眼鸟 *Zosterops erythropleurus* (Monotypic) or Japanese White-eye 暗绿绣眼鸟 *Zosterops japonicas*]

A flock of c80 on the 10th May **2014** (SFB) – most probably Chestnut-flanked.

Goldcrest 戴菊 *Regulus regulus japonensis*

Rare. Three records, at least eight birds, all in the period 18th Feb to the 25th Mar.

Six on the 23rd Feb **2013**, in Juniper-type trees immediately downstream of Jingmi Lu (TT). One on the 25th Mar in the same place (SFB).

Two on the 18th Feb **2015** (TT), Lower Wenyu, south-east of Jingmi Lu.

Wren 鹪鹩 *Troglodytes troglodytes dauricus*

Scarce. Eight records, all in the period 18th Jan to the 19th Mar.

One on the 21st Jan **2010** (SFB); One on the 4th Mar.

One, Lower Wenyu, on the 23rd Feb **2013** (TT). One on the 5th Mar and one also on the 18th (SFB).

Seen on only one (two birds on the 18th Jan) of the 18 visits between January and April **2014** (SFB).

One on the 5th Mar **2015** (SFB); One on the 18th Mar (ZX & SFB).

Eurasian Nuthatch 普通鸺 *Sitta europaea amurensis*

Very rare.

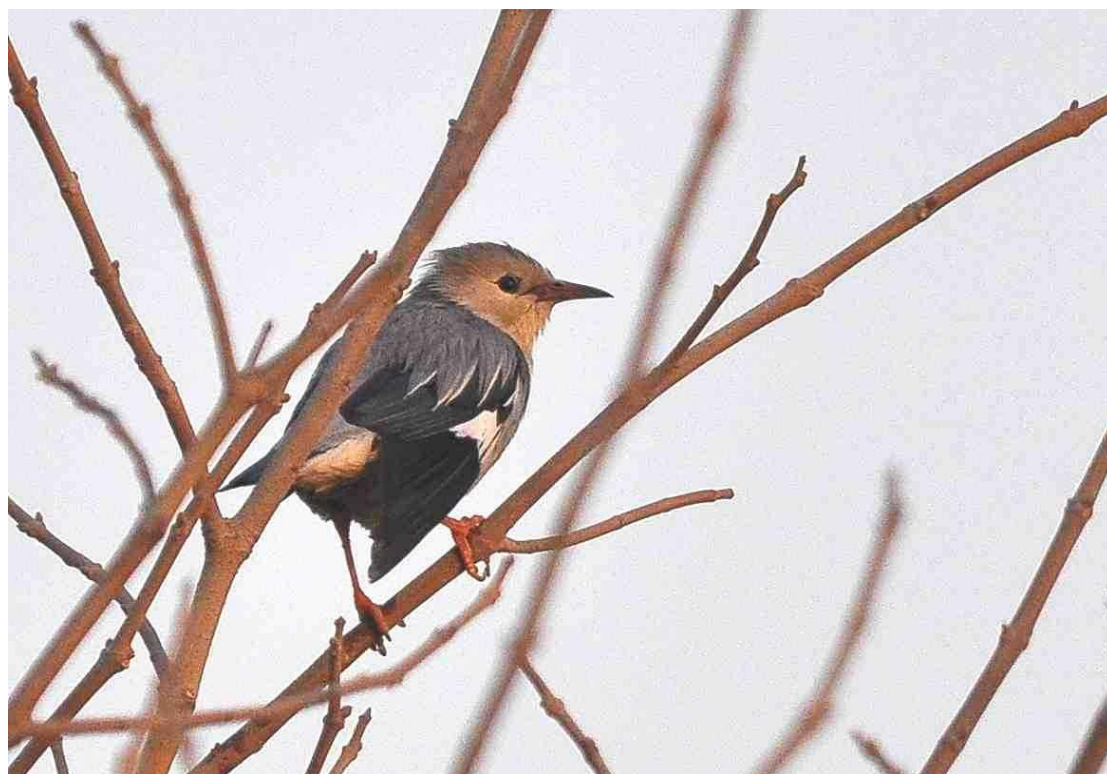
Recorded **before 2009** (BIJ).

Crested Myna 八哥 *Acridotheres cristatellus cristatellus*

Fairly common but local resident. Up to 40 birds seen regularly on the Shunyi side of the river, near to the lower weir.

Silky Starling 丝光椋鸟 *Spodiopsar sericeus* (Monotypic)

Not recorded before spring 2015, and then a spate of records, suggesting a further range extension of a species that has been increasing in Beijing in recent years.



One male on the 5th (SFB, photo) and then a pair on the 8th Mar **2015**, on the Shunyi side of the river, one mile south of The Mile (SFB). Nine on the 24th Mar (SFB) – a flock of six in Shunyi, and a group of three on the Chaoyang Mile

White-cheeked Starling 灰椋鸟 *Spodiopsar cineraceus* (Monotypic)

Fairly common resident.

Records of 20 or more birds:

25 on the 26th Mar **2006** (WQi, XB, & LQW); 20 on the 21st Oct (WQi).

41 on the 21st Mar **2009** (WQi); 22 on the 3rd Apr (WQi via PH).

20 on the 3rd Jun **2012** (CH via PH).

c20 on the 30th Apr **2013** (SFB).

Usually c20 (minimum of ten and maximum of c30) recorded on each of the 22 visits in May 2013 (SFB).

c20 on the 10th Mar **2014** (SFB); 31 on the 1st Apr (SFB); 20 on the 4th Apr (SFB); c20 on the 10th May (DM & SFB); c50 on the 30th May (AM).

24 on the 4th Mar **2015** (SFB).

European Starling 紫翅椋鸟 *Sturnus vulgaris poltaratskyi*



Sporadic visitor, most records from mid-March to the beginning of April.

One on the 8th May **2009** (BIJ).

Two on the 11th and also two on the 13th and the 14th Mar **2013**, feeding on the south-west of the bank of the Lower Paddies, close to the East Bank (ZX & SFB); One on the 16th Mar (SFB, photo). The numbers there then built gradually up to the beginning of April (seen on ten more days), peaking at c25 birds (SFB).

One on the 13th & 14th Mar **2014** (ZX & SFB); and one on the 21st Mar (SFB).

Siberian Thrush 白眉地鸫 *Zoothera sibirica sibirica*

Very rare.

One on the 15th May **2005**, on the Chaoyang side of the river (BA).

White's Thrush 怀氏虎鸫 *Zoothera aurea aurea*

Rare. Three birds.



One on the 28th Sep **2011** in White's Wood (SFB)

One on the 2nd (SFB), 4th (PA & SFB), and the 5th May **2013** (SFB) in White's Wood, just upstream of the Lower Weir. One at the Lower Wenyu on the 10th May, about 15km downstream of The Mile.

Chinese Blackbird 中国乌鸫 *Turdus mandarinus mandarinus*

Surprisingly rare. Three records.

Numbers in Beijing have increased significantly over the past decade, so it is surprising that it is rare in the Wenyu area.

One on the 25th Apr **2010** (SM).

One male on the 10th Mar **2013**, Upper Wenyu, in the garden of the first house downstream of Shahe reservoir (SFB).

One on the 26th Apr **2014**, Upper Wenyu (SFB).

Fea's Thrush 褐头鸫 *Turdus feae* (Monotypic)

Very rare.

One male on the 4th May **2013** (SFB) at the Lower Wenyu, in the now eponymous Fea's Wood, about 15km downstream of The Mile. Watched from 3.50pm to 4pm as it hopped around beneath the trees. It was not there the following morning.

Eye-browed Thrush 白眉鸫 *Turdus obscurus* (Monotypic)



Very Rare.

One on 13th May **2013** at the Lower Wenyu, in Pond Park, about 20km downstream of The Mile.

Black-throated Thrush 黑颈鸫 *Turdus atrogularis* (Monotypic)

Scarce. Five records of at least five seemingly pure black-throats.

Two on the 10th Mar and one on the 18th Mar **2013** (ZX & SFB).

One on the 14th Mar **2014** (SFB).

One on the 14th and one on the 24th Mar **2015** (SFB).

Red-throated Thrush 赤颈鸫 *Turdus ruficollis* (Monotypic)

Scarce. Recorded on seven dates.



One on the 16th Mar **2013** on the burnt stubble of the Lower Paddies (SFB, photo), c6 feeding in the same place on the 21st March (ZX & SFB), and four there on the 25th March (SFB).

One, perhaps the same bird around the East Bank trees, on the 14th Jan 2014 and again on the 21st and the 30th (SFB). Four on the 1st Apr (SFB).

[Red-throated or Black-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis/atrogularis*]

Two on the 8th Apr **2007** (WQi).

One on the 21st Mar **2009** (WQi); Five on the 22nd Mar (BIJ); Two on the 3rd Apr (WQi).

Naumann's Thrush 红尾鸫 *Turdus naumanni* (Monotypic)

Regular early spring visitor in recent years. Scarce winter visitor (including hybrids).



One on the 4th Mar **2010** (SFB).

One on the 14th Jan **2013** (SFB); Three along an eight mile stretch of the Lower Wenyu on the 23rd Feb (TT); c10 on the 21st Mar (ZX & SFB).

c15 on the 14th Mar **2014** (SFB); Four on the 21st Mar; Two on the 30th Mar (SFB). Three on the 1st Apr (SFB).

Three on the 11th Jan **2015** (SFB); Three on the 4th Mar (SFB) and five (+15 intermediate) on the 24th Mar (SFB).

Dusky Thrush 斑鸫 *Turdus eunomus* (Monotypic)

Pure-looking birds are rare.

One on the 10th Mar **2013** (SFB); One on the 23rd Mar (DVD et al).

One male on the 14th Mar **2014** (SFB).

One male on the 5th May **2015** (TT).

Naumann's or Dusky Thrush *Turdus naumanni/eunomus*

Regular spring and scarce winter visitor; most records relate to Naumann's or Naumann's/Dusky hybrids

Three on the 1st Apr **2007** (WQi).

Two on the 16th Nov **2008** (WQi).

One on the 3rd Jan **2009** (BIJ); One on the 18th Jan (BIJ); Four on the 22nd Feb (BIJ); Two on the 15th Mar (BIJ); 22 on the 21st Mar (WQi); 15 on the 22nd Mar (BIJ); Six on the 3rd Apr (BIJ) also 11 on the same date (WQi); Two on the 3rd May 2009 (BIJ & SM); One on the 6th May (BIJ via PH); One on the 19th May 2009 (BIJ).

Four on the 28th Mar **2010** (BIJ); Ten on the 25th Apr (SM via PH).

Ten on the 15th Mar **2011** (SM); Five on the 29th Mar (SM).

c15 on the 24th Mar **2015** (SFB); Three on the 2nd Apr (ZX & SFB).

Chinese Song Thrush 宝兴歌鸫 *Turdus mupinensis* (Monotypic)

Very rare.

One singing on the 16th May 2012 on the Lower Wenyu section (SFB).



Bluethroat 蓝喉歌鸫 *Luscinia svecica svecica*

Regular in recent years in small numbers.

One on the 4th May **2010** (BIJ); One on the 16th May (SM).

One on the 8th May **2012** (SFB);

Three on the 4th (PA & SFB), one on the 16th (SFB) and one on the 17th May **2013** (SFB).

In May **2014**: Two on the 11th (DM & SFB); one on the 16th; one on the morning of the 19th on The Mile, increasing to a remarkable eight in the afternoon (SFB) – the “record count for Beijing” (PH).

One on the 21st May **2015** (SFB); Two on the 16th Sep (TT).



Siberian Rubythroat 红喉歌鸲 *Luscinia calliope calliope* (but ssp *camtschatkensis* may possibly occur)

Scarce.

The fact that just two birds were seen in 22 visits in May 2013 provides some idea of how difficult this species is to find

One on the 3rd (BIJ & SM), one on the 7th (BIJ), one on the 18th (BIJ) and two on the 19th May **2009** (BIJ).

One on the 13th, one on the 16th and one on the 19th May **2010** (SM).

Two on the 17th and one on the 21st May **2013** (SFB), all in the bushes near to the East Bank; One on the 25th May (HLH & WX); One on the 18th Aug (TT).

One male on the 17th May **2014** in bushes next to the south side of the Upper Paddies (DM & SFB); One on the 14th Sep (DM & SFB).



Two (one male) on the 19th May **2015** in bushes on the Shunyi side of the river, downstream of the lower weir. Two males on the 21st May on The Mile. One on the 16th Sep 2015 (TT & BW).

Siberian Blue Robin 蓝歌鸲 *Luscinia cyane bochaiensis*

Scarce. At least seven birds, five of which were seen in two days.

One on the 19th May **2010** (SM).

One male on the 18th May **2014** by the wall of the tree nursery at the southernmost end of The Mile (ZX, JB & SFB).



Three well separated individuals (all males) on the 19th May **2015**, on the Shunyi side, from 500 yards upstream of Jingmi Lu to 500 yards downstream of the weir (SFB); and presumably two different males on the 20th and again on the 21st May across on The Mile (SFB).

Swinhoe's Robin 红尾歌鸲 *Luscinia sibilans* (Monotypic)



Very rare.

A quiet skulker that has most probably been overlooked.

One on the 21st May 2013, in bushes by the stream that runs near to the East Bank.

Red-flanked Bluetail 红肋蓝尾鸫 *Tarsiger cyanurus* (Monotypic)

Inexplicably rare. Three records only.

One on the 12th May **2009** (SM).

One on the 18th Apr **2010** (BIJ, RC & KC).

One on the 3rd Apr **2012** (SFB).



Daurian Redstart 北红尾鸫 *Phoenicurus aureus aureus*

Regular in early spring in very small numbers. One February record.

“Present’ on the 19th Mar **2006** (WQi & AB); Two on the 25th Apr (WQi).

Two on the 28th Mar **2010** (BIJ)

“A few birds seen every March or April (**2010/11/12/13/14/15**) on the Upper Wenyu section” (SFB).

One male on the 30th Mar **2014** (SFB) on The Mile.

One male on the 11th Feb **2015** on The Mile in reeds by the river – the earliest, and first February record (SFB, photo). One male on the 8th Apr (SFB). One female on the 26th Apr (SFB).



Siberian Stonechat 黑喉石即鸟 *Saxicola maurus stejnegeri* [this does not follow IOC list 2016 v6.1, which classifies *stejnegeri* as a species, "Stejneger's Stonechat"]

Regular spring visitor, usually in small numbers.

Earliest arrivals and records of four or more birds:

One on the 27th Apr **2006** (WQi).

18 on the 30th Apr **2009** (BIJ).

Four on the 13th May **2010** (SM).

Nine on the 12th Sep **2012** (PA, TT & SFB).

Four on the 30th Apr **2013** (SFB). In May (SFB): Five birds on the 1st, [three on the 4th, two on the 5th and 16th, and one bird on the 10th].

c45 on the 26th Apr **2014** on The Mile and the Upper Wenyu (SFB); Four on the 11th May **2014** (DM & SFB).

Five on the 26th Apr **2015** (SFB); Five on the 3rd May (TT); Six on the 21st May (SFB).

Grey-streaked Flycatcher 灰纹鹟 *Muscicapa Ogriseisticta* [Monotypic]

Rare. Three records; at least 11 birds.

Ten on the 22nd May (SM & BIJ via PH) and one on the 23rd May **2009** (BIJ).

One on 19th May **2015** on the Shunyi side of the river, in the river-side trees just downstream of the weir (in the same place as two Siberian Flycatchers).



Siberian Flycatcher 乌鹟 *Muscicapa sibirica sibirica*

Scarce. Recorded on eight dates; a minimum of ten birds.

In May **2013** (SFB): Two on the 16th (the earliest arrival date), three on the 17th, two on the 20th, and three on the 22nd. White's Wood and Bunting Wood were the favoured locations.

Two on the 20th May **2014**.

In **2015**: Two on 19th May on the Shunyi side of the river, in the tall river-side trees just downstream of the weir (with a Grey-streaked Flycatcher). Three on The Mile on 20th May (SFB) and probably the same three there the following day (SFB).



Brown Flycatcher 北灰鹟 *Muscicapa dauurica dauurica*

Scarce May visitor. Eight records, at least 17 birds.

One on the 12th May **2009** (SM) – the earliest arrival date.

One on the 19th May **2010** (SM via PH).

One on the 24th May **2011** (SM).

In May **2013** (SFB): About ten on the 16th and one on the 17th. White's Wood and Bunting Wood were their preferred stop-overs.

Three on the 19th May **2015** on the Shunyi side of the river, downstream of the lower weir. One on the 20th and also on the 21st May on The Mile (SFB).



Yellow-rumped Flycatcher 白眉姬鵙 *Ficedula zanthopygia* [Monotypic]

Scarce migrant. Five records, each of a single bird.

One male on the 18th May **2009** (BIJ).

One male on The Mile on 8th May **2012** (SFB).

One male on the 20th May **2013** (SFB), at the Lower Wenyu, Chaoyang, about 15km downstream of The Mile.

One male on the 10th May **2014** (SFB) on Lower Wenyu, Shunyi, 2km downstream of The Mile.



One female on the 19th May **2015** on the Shunyi side of the river, in river-side bushes just downstream of the weir (SFB).

Mugimaki Flycatcher 鸫姬鶯 *Ficedula mugimaki* [Monotypic]



Rare. Two records only.

One female on the 7th May **2009** (BIJ).

One female on the 17th May **2013** in Bunting Wood (SFB).

Taiga Flycatcher 红喉姬鹟 *Ficedula albicilla* [Monotypic]

Regular visitor, most frequently in the first three weeks of May.

Earliest arrivals and records of three or more birds:

'Present' on the 29th Apr 2006 (SW & BML).

Five on the 30th Apr **2009** (BIJ); 14 on the 8th May (BIJ); Four on the 7th May (BIJ).

Six on the 4th May **2010** (BIJ); Ten on the 13th May (SM).

12 on the 7th and 20 on the 8th May **2012** (SFB).

In May **2013** (SFB): Seen on all 17 visits up to the 21st, but not seen after that date in five visits. Mostly seen in twos and ones, but three on the 1st and 4th, four on the 5th and the 20th. A large fall occurred on the 17th when c15 birds were seen.

Three on the 16th May **2014** (SFB)

Four on the 17th May **2015** (SFB); c20 on the 20th May on The Mile (SFB) – the record Wenyu count; Three on the 21st May (SFB).

Blue and White Flycatcher 白腹蓝鹟 *Cyanoptila cumatilis intermedia*

Very rare.

Recorded **before 2009** (BIJ).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow 麻雀 *Passer montanus saturatus*

The commonest Wenyu bird by far; very large flocks are present from October to April.

Estimates of 100 or more birds:

300 on the 16th Jan **2005** (DST); 200 on the 26th Feb.

135 on the 25th Apr **2006** (WQi via PH); 100 on the 21st Oct (WQi, XB, LQW et al via PH); 100 on the 12th Nov (WQi via PH); 200 on the 17th Dec (DST via PH).

200 on the 13th Jan **2007** (WQi via PH); 100 on the 11th Mar (WQi via PH); 200 on the 24th Mar (WQi via PH); 200 on the 20th Oct (WQi via PH).

350 on the 16th Feb **2008** (WQi via PH); 100 on the 23rd (HZ via PH); 115 on the 26th Apr (WQi via PH); 300 on the 16th Nov (WQi via PH).

500 on the 16th 25th Oct **2009** (WQi & LQW).

200 on the 21st Jan **2010** (SFB via PH).

350 on the 6th Oct **2012** (TT via PH); also "several rather big flocks" on the same date (PA via PH).

In **2013**: c100 on the 9th, 13th, and the 20th Jan (SFB via PH); 900+ on the 23rd Feb (TT via PH) is the highest Wenyu count; c100 on the 20th May (SFB); 200 on the 21st Sep (RL, WX, SFB et al).

200 on the 10th Mar **2014** (SFB via PH).

c700 on the 20th Jan **2015** (SFB).

Siberian Accentor 棕眉山岩 *Prunella montanella* (presumably records relate to ssp *badia*, but nominate ssp *montanella* may possibly occur)

Recently regular visitor in small numbers in winter and early spring. In all, at least 55 birds seen on 19 dates.

Seen once **prior to 2009** (BA via PH).

One heard on the 15th Dec **2012** (PH).

A flock of eight on the 7th Jan **2013**, on the Lower Wenyu, just south-east of the riding school (SFB); several there also on the 13th Jan (SFB), increasing to c15 on the 16th Mar (SFB). Three on the Lower Wenyu section on the 31st Jan (SFB). Six along an eight mile stretch of the Lower Wenyu on the 23rd Feb (TT).

Only seen twice in 18 visits between Jan and Mar **2014** (SFB): Two on the 18th Jan, and one on the 9th Feb.

Six on the 9th Jan **2015** (SFB), also in the place the 2013 birds were seen, and one there on the 11th Jan (SFB); Several on the 20th Jan 2015 (SFB) – unusually, in the reed bed by the river by the upstream end of the Lower Paddies. Two on the 18th Feb (TT). In March: Three on the 5th on the Shunyi side of the river, about two miles south of The Mile (SFB), two there on the 12th Mar (TT & SFB), as well as two on 13th and the 17th (SFB) and nine (groups of five and four) on the 18th (SFB). One on the 4th Nov (PH).



Forest Wagtail 山鹊鸂 *Dendronanthus indicus* (Monotypic)

Scarce. At least six birds seen on seven dates.

One on the 12th May **2009** (BIJ & SM).

One on the 14th May **2012** (SFB).

In May **2013** (SFB): One on the 16th in trees by the Upper Paddies; three on the 17th (one in Bunting Wood; two in trees by the Upper Paddies); one on the 18th and one on the 21st in trees by the Upper Paddies.

One on the 20th May **2015** on the East Bank (SFB, photo):



**Eastern Yellow Wagtail 黄鹡鸰 *Motacilla tschutschensis*
*tschutschensis/macronyx***

Regular spring visitor in late April and the first three weeks of May.

[There have been several birds showing characteristics of Western Yellow Wagtail, notably the individual on the 3rd May 2012. However, due to the variability of some Eastern Yellow Wagtails, these records are classified as 'unproven'.]

33 on the 30th Apr **2009** (BIJ via PH). In May: Six on the 3rd (BIJ); 16 on the 6th (BIJ); 35 on the 7th (BIJ); 35 on the 8th (BIJ); 35 on the 9th (BIJ); 20 on the 11th (BIJ & SM); 40 on the 12th (BIJ & SM); 40 on the 13th (BIJ); 12 on the 17th (BIJ & SM via PH); 12 on the 19th (BIJ & SM via PH).

Three on the 25th Apr **2010** (BIJ & SM via PH). Ten on the 30th Apr 2010 (SFB). In May: 24 on the 4th May (BIJ via PH); 25 on the 10th May (SM); Ten on the 13th May (SM via PH); Two on the 16th May (SM via PH); Ten on the 19th May (SM via PH).

Five on the 22nd May **2011** (SM via PH).

c20 on the 3rd May **2012** (SFB); c20 on the 7th May (SFB); c80 on the 8th May 2012; Two on the 12th Sep (PA, TT & SFB).

In May **2013** (SFB): Seen every visit up until the 23rd, also a single bird on the 29th. The peak was on 3rd May when an estimated 60 birds were seen. About 50 were seen on the 4th, about 35 were seen each day from the 6th to the 8th; there were about 30 on the 16th; and about 20 on the 5th, 10th and 17th. Up to an estimated 10 birds were seen on other visits up to and including the 23rd.

Three on the 5th Apr **2014** (SFB). In May: c50 on the 11th (DM & SFB); c100 on the 16th (SFB) – the record Wenyu count; c20 on the 18th May (SFB); and several on the 19th (SFB).

One on the 10th Apr **2015** (SFB) – the earliest arrival date by 12 days; 28 on the 3rd May 2015 (TT); 66 on the 5th May 2015 (TT); c10 on the 21st May 2015 (SFB); Several on the 23rd May (DM & SFB).



Green-headed Wagtail 绿头鹛 Motacilla taivana [this does not follow IOC list 2016 v6.1, which classifies *taivana* as a subspecies of Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis taivana*]

Scarce. At least 12 birds recorded on nine dates.

First recorded on the 8th May **2012** (SFB, photo on the following page).

In May **2013**: One on the 4th (PA & SFB); one on the 16th (SFB), two on the 17th (SFB), and at least seven but probably as many as ten birds the 21st (SFB). All birds were seen at the Lower Paddies.

In May **2014** one on the 11th and one on the 19th.

At least one on the 5th May **2015** (TT). One on the 21st May (SFB).



Citrine Wagtail 黄头鹡鸰 *Motacilla citreola citreola*

Regular spring visitor, recorded on 28 dates over six years.

Two on the 30th Apr **2009** (BIJ). In May: One on the 7th May (BIJ via PH); One on the 8th May (BIJ); Two on the 9th May (BIJ); Two on the 11th May (BIJ & SM via PH); Two on the 13th May (BIJ); One on the 17th May (BIJ & SM); Four on the 18th May (BIJ); One on the 19th May (BIJ).

One on the 25th Apr **2010** (SM); Two on the 4th May; One on the 19th May (SM).

Two males on the mud on the Shunyi side of the Mile on the 14th Apr **2013**. In May (SFB): Six on the 1st (photo), two on the 2nd and the 3rd; one on the 4th, 5th, 10th and the 11th.

Three, including two males on the 25th Apr **2014** (SFB). One male on the 2nd May (DM). One on the 11th May (DM & SFB), and a few on the 19th May (SFB).

One on the 10th Apr **2015** (SFB) – the earliest arrival date by 15 days. An astonishing c35 on the 26th Apr (SFB). Six (two males, six females) on the 3rd May (TT). Two on the 20th May (SFB).



Grey Wagtail 灰鹡鹩 *Motacilla cinerea cinerea*

Regular spring visitor. Possible breeding bird.

Three on the 30th Apr **2009** (BIJ). In May: Three on the 3rd (BIJ); six on the 6th (BIJ); three on the 7th (BIJ); Two on the 8th (BIJ); Two on the 9th (BIJ); Seven on the 11th May (BIJ & SM) – the record Wenyu count; Four on the 12th (BIJ & SM); Six on the 13th (BIJ); Four on the 18th (BIJ); Two on the 19th (BIJ).

One on the 22nd May **2011** (SM).

One on the 7th May **2012** (SFB).

A pair from the 24th April **2013** to the end of the month, and probably the same pair seen on various dates in May (SFB). In May (SFB): Four on the 1st and the 2nd, three on the 3rd, four again on the 4th, five on the 5th, two on the 6th, 7th and 8th, one on the 9th and 10th. A pair seen on most subsequent visits.

Two on the 23rd and three on the 25th Apr **2014** (SFB).

Four on the 26th Apr **2015**; Six on the 3rd May (TT); One on the 19th May (SFB); One on the 21st May (SFB).



White Wagtail 白鹡鸰 *Motacilla alba* (Four subspecies)

'Amur' Wagtail *m.a. leucopsis* and 'East Siberian' Wagtail *m.a. ocularis*

Regular spring visitor, sometimes in large numbers. Rare in winter.

Ten on the 26th Mar **2006** (WQi, XB, & LQW); One on the 25th Apr (WQi).

Five on the 24th Mar **2007** (WQi); Five on the 8th Apr (WQi);

One on the 27th Jan **2009** (WQi); Four on the 21st Mar (WQi via PH); Two on the 3rd Apr (WQi via PH); 25 on the 12th Apr (BIJ); 20 on the 30th Apr (BIJ); One on the 7th May (BIJ); Two on the 9th May (BIJ); Two on the 11th May (BIJ).

One on the 21st Mar **2010** (WQi); One on the 28th Mar (BIJ); Two on the 23rd Apr (WQi); Five on the 25th Apr (SM); Five on the 4th May (BIJ); One on the 19th May (SM).

Three on the 29th Mar **2011** (SM).

Five on the 3rd Jun **2012** (CH via PH); One 'Amur' on the 16th Jun (J-EN); Four on the 12th Sep (PA, TT & SFB); Four (three 'Amur' and one 'East Siberian') on the 6th Oct (PA & TT).

Three on the Lower Wenyu on the 18th Jan **2013** (including at least one 'East Siberian'). Three 'Amur' on the 16th Mar; Two on the 23rd Mar. c30 on the 30th Apr (SFB). In May: Between seven and ten birds seen each day from the 1st to the 5th. Between one and two birds seen on five subsequent visits.

One on the 10th Mar **2014** (SFB); c30 on the 22nd Mar (SFB); Three 'Amur' on the 30th Mar; c6 on the 6th Apr (SFB); 12 on the 23rd Apr; 20 on the 25th Apr (SFB).

c45 on the 18th Mar and c200 on the 29th Mar **2015** (SFB). c100 on the 3rd Apr (SFB) and c30 on the 4th Apr (DM & SFB). c100, including a flock of c12, on the 5th Apr (SFB). c10 on the 8th Apr (SFB). c30-40 on the 9th and 10th Apr, including ssp identification of at least 15 'East Siberian', 10 'Amur', [and two 'Baikal' (SFB)]. c25 'East Siberian' on the 26th Apr (SFB). One 'Amur' on the 20th and on the 21st May 2015 (SFB).

'Masked' Wagtail *m.p. personata*



One, the second record for Beijing, was found on the 29th Mar **2015**, on the Chaoyang side of the Lower Wenyu, one mile downstream of The Mile (SFB, photo). The bird was feeding around an allotment for ten minutes, before flying across to the Shunyi side of the river. Its arrival coincided with a period of very strong NW winds. One of the c200 White Wagtails seen on that day. Beijing's first 'Masked' wagtail was seen at Ma Chang, Yanqing, on the 14th Apr 2012 (TT & JH). Another 'Masked' Wagtail was found on the 3rd Apr (ZX & SFB), the third record of the taxon in Beijing and the second record for the Wenyu. It was feeding by the lower weir on the Shunyi side of The Mile (SFB).

'Baikal' Wagtail *m.p. baicalensis*

One on the 4th Apr 2015 (DM & SFB) on the Shunyi side of the river, downstream of The Mile; Another 'Baikal' Wagtail on the 5th Apr 2015, among more than 100 *leucopsis* (SFB, photo) on the Chaoyang side of The Mile.

Two more 'Baikal' Wagtails were seen on the 9th and 10th April among 30-40 *leucopsis* (SFB).



Beijing is undoubtedly the world's wagtail capital, with all but a very few of the wagtail subspecies passing through. The Wenyu is arguably the capital's wagtail super-highway. It is the best place to catch up with some of the taxa – and is of course far more accessible than the further flung places on earth, where many of these birds are heading.

Richard's Pipit 理氏鵲 *Anthus richardi* (Monotypic)

Regular May visitor in small numbers.

Six on the 3rd May **2009** (BIJ & SM) – the joint earliest spring record (along with 2015 when, also, six were seen). Two on the 7th May (BIJ), 17 on the 19th May (BIJ).

Two on the 10th May **2010** (SM).

Three on the 7th May **2012**; c20 on the 8th May 2012 (SFB); c20 on the 14th May 2012 (SFB); One on the 12th Sep 2012 (PA, TT & SFB).

In May **2013** (SFB): Two on the 4th (PA & SFB); One on the 6th; Four on the 7th; Two on the 8th; Four on the 9th; One on the 10th; One on the 13th; An estimated 12 birds on the 16th; An estimated 25 birds on the 17th (including a flock of 17 birds on the scrubland next to the Upper Paddies); Two on the 18th; One on the 20th; Several on the 21st; And presumably the same flock of 17 on the scrubland next to the Upper Paddies on the 22nd (reducing to a flock of 11 there on the 23rd). There was none there on the 24th or on subsequent visits that month. Also, one on the 21st Sep (ZX, RL, WX, SFB, et al).



c10 on the 11th May **2014** (DM & SFB), three on the 17th (DM & SFB), two on the 18th and c12 on the 19th May (SFB).

Six on the 3rd May **2015** (TT) – the joint earliest spring record (along with 2009 when, also, six were seen). All but “a few” of a flock of 17 large pipits on The Plateau on the 20th were Richard’s (SFB). Eight on the 21st May by the Plateau (SFB); One on the 23rd May (DM & SFB).

Blyth's Pipit 布氏鹀 *Anthus godlewskii* (Monotypic)

Rare. Two records, at least three birds.

“A few” of a flock of 17 large pipits on The Plateau on the 20th May **2015** were Blyth’s (SFB). A group of three on the Plateau on the 21st May (SFB).

Olive-backed Pipit 树鹀 *Anthus hodgsoni yunnanensis*

Regular spring and scarce winter visitor.



Six on the 13th Jan **2007** (WQi); Three on the 11th Mar (WQi); Two on the 1st Apr (WQi); Eight on the 20th Oct (WQi).

Three on the 16th Nov **2008** (WQi); One on the 30th Apr (BIJ via PH).

Three on the 15th Mar **2009** (BIJ via PH); Nine on the 30th Apr (BIJ). In May: Ten on the 3rd (BIJ & SM), one on the 6th (BIJ), eight on the 7th (BIJ), six on the 8th (BIJ), three on the 12th (BIJ & SM), and one on the 13th (BIJ).

Three on the 25th Apr **2010** (SM). 20 on the 4th May (BIJ); c40 on the 6th May (SFB); 20 on the 10th May (SM).

Two on the 24th May **2011** (SM).

Two on the 7th May **2012** (SFB); c15 on the 8th May (SFB); Two on the 12th Sep (PA, TT & SFB); Six on the 6th Oct (TT).

Nine along an eight mile stretch of the Lower Wenyu on the 23rd Feb **2013** (TT). One on the 21st Mar (SFB); c30 on the 30th Apr (SFB). In May (SFB): Seen on all 17 visits up to and including the 21st. An average of 25 birds were seen per day in early May (the peak was 60 on the 1st May). The average daily count for mid-May was just four birds.

One on the 23rd Apr **2014** (SFB); c40 on the 25th Apr; Ten on the 26th Apr (SFB); Two on the 11th May (DM & SFB).

Clearly under-recorded in **2015**, only two birds noted on the 21st May (SFB).

Pechora Pipit 北鸚 *Anthus gustavi* (ssp presumably *gustavi* but *menzbieri* could also occur)



Scarce. Single birds recorded on five dates (perhaps no more than three birds).

One on the 31st May **2012** (TT). One on 3rd June (CH via PH).

One on the 2nd May **2013** (SFB); One on 4th May at the Lower Paddies (PA & SFB).

One on the 18th May **2014** (SFB).

Meadow Pipit 草地鸚 *Anthus pratensis* (Monotypic)

Extremely rare.

One on short grass near the East Bank on 6th Apr **2015** (SFB).

Seen on the first anniversary of the bird at Ma Chang (PA, TT et al).

Red-throated Pipit 红喉鸚 *Anthus cervinus* (Monotypic)

Regular spring visitor in small numbers, usually from the end of April.



18 on the 30th Apr **2009** (BIJ); 18 on the 7th May (BIJ). Record counts for Beijing as well as the Wenyu (PH).

One on the 25th Apr **2010** (SM); One on the 4th May (BIJ); One on the 10th May (SM).

One on the 6th May **2012** (SFB, photo), also one on the 8th May (SFB). One on the 6th Oct (TT via PH).

One on five days and two on one day in early May **2013** (SFB). Seen on three visits in mid-May (SFB) – four on the 16th; two on 17th and one on the 21st. All birds were seen at the Lower Paddies.

One on the 23rd Apr **2014** (SFB) – the earliest spring arrival.

One on the 25th Apr **2015** (ZX); A few on the 16th Sep (TT & BW).

Buff-bellied Pipit 黄腹鸫 *Anthus rubescens japonicus*

Regular spring and autumn visitor in small numbers. Rare in winter



One on the 29th Apr **2006** (SW).

One on the 14th Dec **2008** (BIJ & DIM).

30 on the 12th Apr **2009** (BIJ); 18 on the 29th Apr (BIJ via PH); One on the 30th Apr (BIJ); One on the 3rd May (BIJ & SM).

24 on the 4th Apr **2010** (BIJ); 15 on the 18th Apr (BIJ, RC & KC); 50 on the 25th Apr (SM); Eight on the 4th May (BIJ); At least one on the 6th May (SFB, photo); one on the 10th May (SM).

19, including a flock of 15 on the 6th Oct **2012** (PA).

c6 at the end of March **2013** (SFB). Several birds on the 2nd and on the 4th May and one bird on the 10th. All at the Lower Paddies.

One on the 6th Apr **2014** (SFB).

One on the 3rd (ZX & SFB), two on the 9th (SFB) and ten on the 26th Apr **2015** (SFB). Six on the 4th Nov (PH).

Water Pipit 水鵲 *Anthus spinoletta blakistoni*

Regular winter and early spring visitor in usually small numbers.



One on the 30th Nov **2008** (BIJ); One on the 14th Dec (BIJ & DIM); Two on the 20 Dec (BIJ).

12 on the 3rd Jan **2009** (BIJ); Five on the 11th Jan (BIJ); Seven on the 18th Jan (BIJ); Three on the 15th Mar (BIJ); Eight on the 22nd Mar (BIJ); One on the 3rd Apr (BIJ); Three on the 12th Apr 2009 (BIJ).

One on the 21st Jan **2010** (SFB); One on the 4th Mar (SFB); Three on the 28th Mar (BIJ); Two on the 4th Apr; Two on the 23rd Apr (WQi).

One on the 29th Mar **2011** (SM).

One on the 4th Jan **2012** "near the Dengjiayao Qiao (Dengjiayao Bridge) on Chaoyang Bei Lu" (PH). Three on the 15th Dec (PH).

One on the 9th, one on the 13th, two on the 18th and one on the 20th Jan **2013** (SFB). Five on the 16th, several on the 21st and c15 at the end of March (SFB). Three on the 22nd Apr (SFB). Two on the 1st May at the Lower Paddies (SFB).

Between two and five seen on four of the seven visits in Jan **2014** (SFB). Four on the 10th Mar (SFB). One on the 4th Apr 2014 (SFB). Three on the 2nd and 11 on the 13th Nov 2014 (SFB).

Three on the 8th, c30 on the 9th and five on the 11th Jan **2015** (SFB). Three on the 4th and c20 on the 24th Mar (SFB). Three on the 3rd Apr (ZX & SFB). 59 on the 4th Nov 2015, "mostly flying north over the river between 16h25-16hr43 & presumably heading to roost" (PH).

Buff-bellied Pipit 黄腹鹑 *Anthus rubescens japonicas* OR Water Pipit 水鹑 *Anthus spinoletta blakistoni*

Fly-over and/or distant birds:

c100 on the 6th May **2010** (SFB).

c25 on the 20th and eight on the 30th Apr **2013** (SFB).

c15 on the 30th Mar **2014** (SFB); c15 on the 6th Apr (SFB).

c20 on the 10th Apr **2015** (SFB).

Brambling 燕雀 *Fringilla montifringilla* (Monotypic)

Sporadic winter and regular early spring visitor in sometimes large numbers.

Two on the 25th Apr **2006** (WQi via PH).

30 on the 1st Apr **2007** (WQi), and 100 on the 8th Apr (WQi) – the joint record Wenyu count.

50 on the 23rd Feb **2008** (HZ); 100 on the 26th Apr (WQi) – the joint record Wenyu count.

30 on 27th Jan **2009** (WQi); Five on the 15th Mar (BIJ); 50 on the 21st Mar (WQi); 20 on the 3rd Apr (WQi) and ten on the same day (BIJ); 50 on the 12th Apr (BIJ).

Two on the 16th May **2010** (SM).

One on the 8th Mar **2011** (SM).

38 on the 6th Oct **2012** (TT via PH).

Five on the 23rd Feb **2013** (SFB); Ten on the 10th and 20 on the 16th Mar (SFB); Several birds on the 1st and the 2nd May in the East Bank trees (SFB).

One on the 10th Mar **2014** (SFB); c30 on the 1st Apr (SFB).

c40 on the 3rd Apr **2015** (SFB); 17 on the 4th Nov (PH).

Oriental Greenfinch 金翅雀 *Carduelis sinica ussuriensis*

Sporadic spring and winter visitor in small numbers.

One on the 8th Apr **2007** (WQi); and one on the 20th Oct (WQi).

20 on the 23rd Feb **2008** (HZ) – the record Wenyu count

Two on the 21st Jan **2010**; Four on the 21st Mar; Nine on the 23rd Apr.

One on the 13th and six on the 20th May **2013** at the Lower Wenyu (SFB); Five on the 25th May (HLH, WX et al).

Three on the 25th Jan **2015**; Two on the 23rd and one on the 25th Apr (SFB).

Eurasian Siskin 黄雀 *Carduelis spinus* (Monotypic)

Rare. A total of eight birds seen on three dates.

Two on the 1st May **2013** by the East Bank stream (SFB, photo).

One on 9th Feb **2014** (WB-B via TT via PH); Five on the 10th Mar (SFB).



Long-tailed Rosefinch 长尾雀 *Uragus sibiricus ussuriensis*

Very rare.

One on the 8th Mar **2011** (SM).

Common Rosefinch 普通朱雀 *Carpodacus erythrinus grebnitskii*

Scarce. At least c30 birds seen on nine dates in May 2013. Only recorded on three dates outside of this influx.

Two on the 17th May **2009** (BIJ & SM).

Four on the 13th May **2010** (SM).

Recorded each day from 2nd (SFB, photo) to the 9th May **2013** on the mostly bare branches of the East Bank trees (two or three on five days; three on one day; and a flock of about 30 on the 3rd). Also a single bird on the 17th May.

A few singing on the 19th May **2014** (SFB).



Hawfinch 锡嘴雀 *Coccothraustes coccothraustes schulpini*

Rare. Three records, perhaps only seven birds involved.

A flock of seven on the 16th Mar **2013** (SFB) and one at the end of the month. Perhaps the same bird again at the beginning of April (SFB, photo).



Chinese Grosbeak 黑尾蜡嘴雀 *Eophona migratoria migratoria*

Sporadic visitor in small numbers. Has probably bred. More likely to be seen on the Shunyi side of the river.

14 on the 24th Mar **2007** (WQi).

One on the 4th March **2010** on The Mile; One on the 19th May (SM).

A pair on the 16th May **2013** in Bunting Wood was probably breeding there (SFB).

Three on the 9th Jan **2014** (SFB) – Only seen on this of seven visits in Jan. Two on the 18th May (SFB).

14 on the 4th Mar **2015** (SFB), including a flock of 12; Flocks of six on the 3rd (ZX & SFB) and 11 on the 4th Apr (DM & SFB); One pair on the 19th May (SFB).



Pine Bunting 白头鹀 *Emberiza leucocephalos leucocephalos*

Scarce. Five records only.

One on the 31st Jan **2013**, on the Lower Wenyu (SFB). "50+ in one pre-roost flock just north-west of Picun [Lower Wenyu]" on the 23rd Feb (TT) – the record Wenyu count. One on the 5th Mar (SFB).

One on the 4th Nov **2015** (PH); Four on the 28th Nov (TT & ML),

Siberian Meadow Bunting 三道眉草鹀 *Emberiza cioides weigoldi*

Scarce winter visitor. Six records only (including a single early spring record).

Two on the 23rd Feb **2008** (HZ).

Two on the 21st Jan **2010** (SFB, photo of one below).

c6 on the 7th Jan **2013** (SFB) on the Lower Wenyu; Four on the 31st Jan (SFB); Seven along an eight mile stretch of the Lower Wenyu on the 23rd Feb (TT); Six on the 5th Mar (SFB).



Tristram's Bunting 白眉鹀 *Emberiza tristrami* (Monotypic)

Scarce. Recorded on six dates only.

30 on 25th Apr **2006** (WQi & SG) – the highest count by far.

One on the 19th May **2010** (SM) – the latest arrival.

One on the 6th May **2012** (SFB).

Three on the 1st May **2013** in Bunting Wood and one on the 3rd May in the roadside trees of the Lower Paddies (SFB).

Two on the 23rd Apr **2014** (SFB) – the earliest arrival.



Chestnut-eared Bunting 栗耳鹀 *Emberiza fucata fucata*

Scarce. Eight dates, probably 13 birds – all in May.

Three on the 7th May **2009** (BIJ).

One on the 6th May **2012** (SFB) – the earliest arrival. Two on the 28th May 2012 (TT via PH), the latest arrival.

One on the 17th May **2013** in the Lower Paddies' riverside scrub.

Two on the 18th and perhaps the same pair on the 19th May **2014** (SFB).

A pair on the 21st May **2015** (SFB); Two males on the 23rd May (DM & SFB).

Little Bunting 小鹀 *Emberiza pusilla* (Monotypic)

Regular winter visitor in small, and spring visitor in much larger numbers.

Two on the 16th Jan **2005** (DST); Six on the 26th Feb (DST).

Five on the 11th Mar **2007** (WQi); 40 on the 24th Mar (WQi); Ten on the 1st Apr (WQi); 30 on the 8th Apr (WQi).

40 on the 30th Nov **2008** (BIJ); Two on the 14th Dec (BIJ via PH); 30 on 20 Dec (BIJ).

In 2009:

14 on the 3rd Jan (BIJ); 20 on the 11th Jan (BIJ); 30 on the 18th Jan (BIJ).

One on the 15th Feb (BIJ via PH); Six on the 22nd Feb (BIJ via PH).

43 on the 15th Mar (BIJ).

Two on the 30th Apr (BIJ via PH).

In May: Four on the 3rd (BIJ & SM via PH); Five on the 6th (BIJ via PH); on the 7th, 8th, and 18th (BIJ via PH); Two on the 19th (BIJ via PH).

Eight on the 25th Apr **2010** (SM); 24 on the 4th May (BIJ); One on the 10th May (SM via PH); Six on the 16th May (SM via PH); 20 on the 19th May (SM via PH).

20 on the 2nd Mar **2011** (SM); 20 on the 8th Mar (SM).

Several on the 3rd, a few on the 6th, c10 on the 7th and a few on the 8th May **2012** (SFB). Two on the 6th Oct (PA & SFB).

In 2013:

One on the Lower Wenyu on the 7th, also one there on the 13th Jan.

Two on the 23rd Feb (TT).

15 on the 30th Apr (SFB).

In May: c60 birds on the 4th May (the record Wenyu count), more than half of them in Bunting Wood (PA & SFB). There were about 20 on the 1st and c20 on the 5th (SFB); Between five and ten birds seen on other days in early May (SFB). During the mid-month period (SFB): an estimated 13 birds on the 15th, two on the 17th; and one on the 18th. The last bird of the spring migration was seen on the 22nd – the latest ever spring record on the Wenyu.

Two on the 21st Sep (RL, WX, SFB et al).

In **2014**: Three on the 18th Jan (SFB); c35 on the 6th Mar (SFB); c40 on the 10th Mar (SFB); c15 on the 30th Mar (SFB); c10 on the 4th Apr (SFB); c20 on the 6th Apr (SFB); Two on the 23rd Apr (SFB); Six on the 25th Apr (SFB); c60 on the 11th May (DM & SFB); Three on the 19th May (SFB).

One on the 3rd Apr **2015** (ZX & SFB); Three on the 4th Nov (PH); Six on the 28th Nov 2015 (TT & ML).

Yellow-browed Bunting 黄眉鹀 *Emberiza chrysophrys* (Monotypic)

Rare. Four records, 11 birds.



Amazingly, a flock of eight on the morning of the 1st May **2013** (SFB) in Bunting Wood.

Perhaps the same flock were present at Miyun in the afternoon (SFB, pers. conv.)

One on the 5th May (photo) in the same wood.

Two on the 3rd May **2014** (WB-B).

Rustic Bunting 田鸫 *Emberiza rustica* (Monotypic)

Regular March visitor, sometimes in large numbers. Scarce at other times. Wintered in 2008-09.



30 on the 1st Apr **2007** (WQi).

Eight on the 30th Nov **2008** (BIJ); 60 on the 14th (BIJ & DIM) and 12 on the 20th Dec (BIJ).

18 on the 11th and 20 on the 18th Jan **2009** (BIJ); 13 on the 15th Mar (BIJ).

c100 on the 4th Mar **2010** (SFB, photo of one above) in Bunting Wood – the record Wenyu count – many of which were singing (SFB). Just one remaining on the 6th March, singing to itself.

Two on the 8th Mar **2011** (SM).

One on the 3rd May **2012** (SFB).

Ten on the 10th Mar **2013** (SFB). Two on the 16th Mar (SFB); One, singing, on the 18th March; Three (one singing) on the 21st Mar (ZX & SFB). One on the 7th May in Bunting Wood (SFB) – the latest spring date by four days.

c20, including several males, on the 10th Mar **2014** (SFB). Five on the 4th Apr 2014 (SFB).

One on the 26th Apr **2015** (SFB).

Elegant Bunting 黄喉鹀 *Emberiza elegans elegans*

Formerly scarce winter and spring visitor, although the increase in the number of records in 2013 and 2015 provides hope that this wonderful bird will become a Wenyu regular.



One on the 25th Apr **2006** (WQi); One on the 17th Dec 2006 (DST).

One on the 11th Mar **2007** (WQi & LQW).

One on the 26th Apr **2008** (WQi).

One on the 25th Oct **2009** (WQi & LQW).

Three on the 19th May **2010** (SM).

In **2013**:

11, "including two singing males", on the 23rd (TT) along an eight mile stretch of the Lower Wenyu .

Two males on the 10th Mar (SFB).

In May (SFB): Six on the 1st in White's Wood. A few there also on the 2nd and one there on the 5th.

Three on the 9th Jan **2014** (SFB) – the only time this species was seen in 18 visits between Jan and Mar.

In **2015**:

Three on the 20th Jan (SFB).

Four on the 18th Feb (TT).

Two on the 5th, two on the 8th, and two on the 17th Mar, all on the Shunyi side of the river, about two miles south of The Mile (SFB).

Five on the 10th Apr (SFB).

One on the 4th Nov (PH).

Yellow-breasted Bunting 黄胸鹀 *Emberiza aureola* (presumably all ssp *ornata*, but ssp *aureola* could possibly occur)

Scarce. Ten birds seen on six dates. Four May records, and one wintering bird in 2008/09.



A rapidly declining species, globally and in China. But, paradoxically, seen more often in recent years on the Wenyu (although this may be due to increased observer coverage).

One on the 20 Dec **2008** (BIJ), and the same bird again on the 3rd Jan **2009** (BIJ).

One on the 25th May **2010** (SFB).

One female on the 16th May **2013** in the roadside trees by the Upper Paddies.

Four (including one summer-plumaged male) on the 11th May **2014** (DM & SFB) and three (including two males) on the 19th May (SFB, photo of one of the males appears below).

Chestnut Bunting 栗鹀 *Emberiza rutila* (Monotypic)

Rare. Four records, five birds.

One male on the 20th May **2009** (BIJ).

One on the 14th May **2012** (SFB).

One male on the 6th May **2013** (SFB) in the roadside trees by the Lower Paddies (SFB, photo on the following page), and two females on the 17th May (SFB) in the roadside trees of the Upper Paddies.



Black-faced Bunting 灰头鹀 *Emberiza spodocephala spodocephala*

Regular spring and rare winter visitor.

In May **2009** (BIJ): One on the 3rd (& SM); Seven on the 8th; One on the 11th (& SM); Two on the 13th; One on the 14th; One on the 18th; One on the 19th – the joint latest spring date (along with 2010).

In **2010** (SM): Three on the 25th Apr; One on the 13th May; Five on the 16th May; Four on the 19th May – the joint latest spring date (along with 2009).

Two on the 7th and several on the 8th May **2012** (SFB).

In May **2013**: Between one and three birds seen on seven days during the first ten days of the month. Also, one on the 16th and one on the 17th. Bunting Wood and White's Wood were the preferred locations for the stop-overs.

One on the 25th Apr **2014** (SFB). One on the 11th and two on the 17th May (DM & SFB).

One on 20th Jan **2015** (SFB); One on the 18th Feb (TT).

Pallas's Reed Bunting 苇鹀 *Emberiza pallasii (polaris/pallasii)*

"The geographical variation [of these two ssp] not fully understood" source: Clive Byers, Urban Olsson, Jon Curson *Buntings and Sparrows*.



Increasingly regular winter and spring visitor.

Two on the 3rd Jan **2009** (BIJ); c15 on the 22nd Feb (BIJ).

Five on the 28th Mar **2010** (BIJ).

In **2013**:

In Jan: c35 on the 7th, one on the 9th, a few on the 13th, three on the 14th, c12 on the 16th, and two on the 31st (SFB).

14 on the 23rd Feb in the fields south-east of the riding school (TT).

Two on the 5th and three on the 16th Mar (SFB).

One on the 4th and two on the 16th May at the Lower Paddies (SFB).

Five on the 21st Sep (RL, WX, SFB et al).

In **2014**:

Seen only on two of seven visits in Jan (SFB) – c45 on the 18th and c10 on the 10th.

Seen on six of the eight visits between Feb and Mar (SFB) – with a maximum of c30 on the 30th Mar.

Ten on the 6th and four on the 25th Apr (SFB).

Several on the 13th Nov.

In **2015**:

c10 on the 8th, c80 on the 9th and the same number on the 20th Jan (SFB).

c40 on the 11th Feb.

c30 on the 2nd (SFB) and c10 on the 3rd Apr (ZX & SFB).

One pair, the male in full summer plumage, on the 21st May (SFB).

Japanese Reed Bunting 红颈苇鹀 *Emberiza yessoensis continentalis*

Scarce winter and rare spring visitor.



In 2013:

A few on the 13th, one on the 14th, and several on the 16th Jan (SFB), all in the fields south-east of the riding school. Three also there on the 23rd Apr.

One found by Per Alström (also seen by SFB) on the early morning of the 4th May in the Lower Paddies' riverside scrub is the first record for The Mile.

Five on the 18th Jan **2014** (SFB, photo of one appears on the previous page). One summer plumaged male on the 19th May (SFB) – the latest spring record by 15 days.

Two on the 12th Mar **2015** on the Shunyi side of the river, opposite Wryneck wood (TT & SFB).

Reed Bunting 芦鹀 *Emberiza schoeniclus pyrrhulina*

Very rare.

Recorded **before 2009** (BIJ)

Lapland Bunting 铁爪鹀 *Calcarius lapponicus kamtschaticus*

Rare. Seen only on two dates, both in November.

One on the 3rd November **2013** (SFB).

A flock of 230 and of eight on the 28th Nov **2015** (TT & ML), one of the most important as well as amazing Wenyu observations.

Finding Birds on the Wenyu

Birds that get the pulse racing can arrive at any time. But there are of course 'hot' periods and even 'hot' dates (if you'll excuse the expression) when scarcities and rarities are more likely to be found.

Here, then, is the rarity-finders calendar of key dates to visit the Wenyu (all records are of single birds unless otherwise indicated).

Records are chosen for their 'mouthwateringness' and are not strictly related to the rarity of the species – but, of course, all 'one-only' records for all species are included. The initials that follow are those of the finder.

January

6th Whooper Swan to the 18th Jan in 2014 (SFB)

7th Silver-throated Tit 银喉长尾山雀 (12) 2013 (SFB)

9th Mongolian Lark 蒙古百灵 (flock of 11) 2015 (SFB)

13th Tundra Bean Goose (Two) in 2007 (WQi)

13th Dunlin 黑腹滨鹬 (for one week) 2013 (SFB)

18th Jack Snipe 姬鹬 (to the 2nd Feb) 2014 (SFB)

26th Greater Scaup 斑背潜鸭 (male) in 2010 (WQi)

February

23rd Rough-legged Buzzard 毛脚鵟 2008 (HZ, and SJJ)

23rd Pere David's Laughingthrush 山噪鹛 (10) 2008 (HZ)

March

2nd Bar-headed Goose 斑头雁 (Two) to the 8th Mar 2011 (SM)

5th Bohemian Waxwing 太平鸟 (Four) 2013 (SFB)

8th Long-tailed Rosefinch 长尾雀 2011 (SM)

- 15th Tundra Bean Goose 短嘴豆雁** 2009 (BIJ)
- 17th Beijing Babbler 山鹧** (One pair) 2015 (SFB)
- 22nd Sand Martin 崖沙燕** (Two) 2009 (BIJ)
- 23rd Whooper Swan 大天鹅** (three) 2003 (CBR)
- 25th Crested Lark 凤头百灵** 2013 (SFB)
- 29th 'Masked' Wagtail** 2015 (SFB)

April

- 3rd 'Masked' Wagtail** 2015 (SFB)
- 6th Meadow Pipit 草地鹨** 2015 (SFB)
- 10th Asian Short-toed Lark 亚洲短趾百灵** (Nine) 2015 (SFB)
- 15th Greater White-fronted Goose 白额** 2006 (WQi & LQW)
- 15th Common Crane 灰鹤** (two) 2006 (WQi & LQW)
- 19th Asian House Martin 烟腹毛脚燕** 2014 (DM & SFB)
- 22nd Pied Harrier 鹊鹞** (male) 2012 (ZX & SFB)
- 23rd Black-necked Grebe 黑颈鸊鷉** (two) in 2010 (WQi)
- 25th Long-tailed Duck 长尾鸭** to the 27th 2006 (WQi & SG)
- 25th Avocet 反嘴鹮** 2006 (WQi)
- 29th Great Bustard 大鸨** 2006 (BML, LX, & SW)
- 30th Intermediate Egret 中白鹭** 2009 (BIJ)
- 30th Eastern Marsh Harrier 白腹鹞** 2009 (BIJ)
- 30th Lesser Kestrel 黄爪隼** 2013 (SFB)

May

- 1st Long-tailed Minivet 长尾山椒鸟** (2 females) 2009 (SFB)
- 1st Chinese Leaf Warbler 云南柳莺** (to the 5th) 2013 (SFB)
- 1st Hume's Warbler 淡眉柳莺** 2013 (SFB)
- 3rd Little Stint 小滨鹬** 2013 (SFB)
- 3rd Gull-billed Tern 鸥嘴噪鸥** (Seven) 2013 (SFB)
- 4th Claudia's Warbler 冠纹柳莺** 2013 (PA)
- 4th Fea's Thrush 褐头鹟** 2013 (SFB)
- 5th Greater Short-toed Lark 大短趾百** 2015 (TT)
- 7th Mugimaki Flycatcher 鸫姬鹟** 2009 (BIJ)
- 8th Ringed Plover 剑鸻** 2012 (SFB)
- 9th Latham's Snipe 澳南沙锥** (to the 14th) 2009 (BIJ)
- 10th Claudia's Warbler 冠纹柳莺** 2010 (SM)
- 10th Armand's Warbler 棕眉柳莺** (11th also) 2013 (SFB)
- 11th Whimbrel 中杓鹬** 2014 (DM & SFB)
- 13th Swinhoe's Snipe 大沙锥** 2009 (BIJ)
- 13th Eye-browed Thrush 白眉鹟** 2013 (SFB)
- 15th Siberian Thrush 白眉地鹟** 2005 (BA)
- 15th Greater Sand Plover 铁嘴沙鸻** 2015 (ZX)
- 16th Manchurian Bush Warbler 远东树莺** 2010 (SM)
- 16th Eastern Crowned Warbler 冕柳莺** 2010 (SM)

- 16th Chinese Song Thrush 宝兴歌鸲** 2012 (SFB)
- 16th Cinnamon Bittern 栗苇干干鸟** (male) 2013 (SFB)
- 16th Manchurian Reed Warbler 远东苇莺** 2013 (SFB)
- 16th Sand Martin 崖沙燕** (Two) 2014 (SFB)
- 17th Mugimaki Flycatcher 鸲姬鹟** 2013 (SFB)
- 18th Short-toed Eagle 短趾雕** 2015 (SFB)
- 20th Pale-legged Leaf Warbler 淡脚柳莺** (Two) 2013 (SFB)
- 20th Blyth's Pipit 布氏鸻** ('a few' also 3 on 21st) 2013 (SFB)
- 21st Gull-billed Tern 鸥嘴噪鸥** 2013 (SFB)
- 21st Swinhoe's Robin 红尾歌鸲** 2013 (SFB)
- 22nd Grey-faced Buzzard 灰脸鵟鹰** 2013 (SFB)
- 23rd Cinnamon Bittern 栗苇干干鸟** (female) 2013 (SFB)
- 24th Red-necked Stint 红颈滨鹬** (four) 2011 (SM)
- 24th Oriental Cuckoo 北方中杜鹃** 2011 (SM)
- 25th Red-crested Pochard 赤嘴潜鸭** (two males) 2010 (SFB)
- 26th Pere David's Bush Warbler 北短翅莺** 2013 (SFB)
- 28th Yellow-legged Buttonquail 黄脚三趾鹑** 2012 (TT)
- 28th Pere David's Bush Warbler 北短翅莺** (& 31) 2013 (SFB)
- 30th Long-tailed Shrike 棕背伯劳** 2014 (AM)

June

- 3rd Red-billed Blue Magpie 红嘴蓝鹊** 2012 (CH)

5th Yellow-legged Buttonquail 黄脚三趾鹑 2014 (WB-B)

27th Watercock 董鸡 (4 inc 3 males to 1st July) 2009 (BIJ)

27th Greater Painted Snipe 彩鹬 2009 (SM)

July

1st Greater Painted Snipe 彩鹬 (one pair) 2009 (BIJ)

5th Greater Painted Snipe 彩鹬 (three) 2009 (BIJ)

August

9th Hair-crested Drongo 发冠卷尾 (Two) 2012 (TT)

September

12th Grey-tailed Tattler 灰尾漂鹬 2012 (PA)

14th Turnstone 翻石鹬 2014 (DM & SFB)

15th Black-winged Kite 黑翅鸢 2013 (SFB)

28th Black-necked Grebe 黑颈鸂鶒 2014 (SFB)

28th Buff-throated Warbler 棕腹柳莺 2014 (SFB)

October

15th Eurasian Woodcock 丘鹬 2009 (SFB)

15th Long-tailed Minivet 长尾山椒鸟 2009 (SFB)

25th Short-eared Owl 短耳鸮 2009 (WQi)

November

8th Lapland Bunting 铁爪鹀 2013 (SFB)

9th Short-eared Owl 短耳鸮 2014 (SFB)

28th Greater White-fronted Goose 白额雁 2015 (TT & ML)

28th Asian Short-toed Lark 亚洲短趾百灵 (4) 2015 (TT & ML)

28th Brandt's Horned Lark 白角百灵(6) 2015 (TT & ML)

28th Lapland Bunting 铁爪鹀 (230 & 8) 2015 (TT & ML)

December

7th Greater Flamingo 大红鹳 to the 13th 2015 (LH)

19th Common Gull 海鸥 2011 (PH)

20th Beijing Babbler 山鹪 2009 (BIJ)

The List of 'New' Birds for the Wenyu

2003

23rd Mar, Whooper Swan 大天鹅, three (CBR)

2005

26th Feb, Little Owl 纵纹腹小鸮 (DST, & SM via PH).

15th May, Siberian Thrush 白眉地鸫 (BA)

22nd May, Two-barred Greenish Warbler 双斑绿柳莺 10 (BA)

17th Sep, Baikal Teal 花脸鸭 (BA)

2006

19th Mar, Black-headed Gull 红嘴鸥 (WQi & AB via PH)

26th Mar, Large-billed Crow 大嘴乌鸦 (via PH)

26th Mar, Tufted Duck 凤头潜鸭, eight (WQi, XB, & LQW)

26th Mar, Common Shelduck 翘鼻麻鸭 (WQi, XB & LTW).

26th Mar, Eurasian Wigeon 赤颈鸭, eight (WQi, XB, & LQW),

15th Apr, Greater White-fronted Goose 白额 (WQi & LQW)

15th Apr, Common Crane 灰鹤, two (WQi & LQW)

25th Apr, Long-tailed Duck 长尾鸭 to the 27th Apr (WQi & SG)

25th Apr, Tristram's Bunting 白眉鹀, 30 (WQi & SG)

25th Apr, Avocet 反嘴鹈 (WQi)

25th Apr, Falcated Duck 罗纹鸭, eleven (WQi)

25th Apr, Great Crested Grebe 凤头鸕鷀, two (WQi)

29th Apr, Great Bustard 大鸨 (BML, LX, & SW)

29th Apr, Common Kingfisher 普通翠鸟 (SW & BML via PH).

2007

13th Jan, Tundra Bean Goose, two (WQi)

2008

23rd Feb, Rough-legged Buzzard 毛脚鵟 (HZ, and SJJ)

23rd Feb, Pere David's Laughingthrush 山噪鹛, 10 (HZ)

23rd Feb, Siberian Meadow Bunting 三道眉草鹀 (HZ)

20th May, Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler 小蝗莺 (BIJ)

30th Nov, Crested Kingfisher 冠鱼狗 (BIJ)

20th Dec, Yellow-breasted Bunting 黄胸鹀 (BIJ)

2009

3rd Jan, Ferruginous Duck 白眼潜鸭 (BIJ)

21st Mar, Vega Gull 西伯利亚银鸥 (WQi)

22nd Mar, Sand Martin 崖沙燕, two (BIJ)

30th Apr, Intermediate Egret 中白鹭 (BIJ)

30th Apr, Eastern Marsh Harrier 白腹鸮 (BIJ)

2nd May, Common Rosefinch 普通朱雀 (BIJ & SM)

3rd May, Temminck's Stint 青脚滨鸮, two (BIJ & SM)

3rd May, Siberian Rubythroat 红喉歌鸮 (BIJ & SM)

6th May, Hen Harrier 白尾鸮 (BIJ)

7th May, Mugimaki Flycatcher 鸫姬鸮 (BIJ)

7th May, Chestnut-eared Bunting 栗耳鸮, three (BIJ)

8th May, Common Redshank 红脚鸮, six (BIJ)

9th May, Latham's Snipe 澳南沙锥 (BIJ)

9th May, Curlew Sandpiper 弯嘴滨鸮 (BIJ)

12th May, Brown Flycatcher 北灰鸮 (SM)

12th May, Red-flanked Bluetail 红肋蓝尾鸮 (SM)

12th May, Forest Wagtail 山鹡鸰 (BIJ & SM)

13th May, Swinhoe's Snipe 大沙锥 (BIJ)

15th May, Whiskered Tern 须浮鸥 (BIJ)

17th May, Spotted Redshank 鹤鸮, two (BIJ & SM)

18th May, White-breasted Waterhen 白胸 (BIJ)

18th May, Yellow-rumped Flycatcher 白眉姬鸮 (BIJ)

18th May, Arctic Warbler 极北柳莺 (BIJ)

19th May, Common Greenshank 青脚鸮 (BIJ)

20th May, Chestnut Bunting 栗鸫 (BIJ)

22nd May, Grey-streaked Flycatcher 灰纹鹟 10 SM/BIJ via PH

27th Jun, Watercock 董鸡, 4 inc 3 males (BIJ)

27th Jun, Greater Painted Snipe 彩鹬 (SM)

5th Jul, Yellow Bittern 黄苇干干鸟 (BIJ).

15th Oct, Eurasian Woodcock 丘鹬 (SFB)

25th Oct, Short-eared Owl 短耳鸮 (WQi)

13th Nov, Bewick's Swan 小天鹅 (SFB)

20th Dec, Beijing Babbler 山鹪 2009 (BIJ)

2010

21st Jan, Wren 鹪鹩 (SFB)

26th Jan, Greater Scaup 斑背潜鸭, male (WQi)

23rd Apr, Black-necked Grebe 黑颈鸊鷀, two (WQi)

25th Apr, Chinese Blackbird 中国乌鸫 (SM)

4th May, Eurasian Wryneck 蚁鸢 (BIJ)

10th May, Claudia's Warbler 冠纹柳莺 (SM)

13th May, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper 尖尾滨鹬 (SM)

16th May, Eastern Crowned Warbler 冕柳莺 (SM)

19th May, Lanceolated Warbler 矛斑蝗莺 (SM)

19th May, Siberian Blue Robin 蓝歌鸲 (SM)

25th May, Red-crested Pochard 赤嘴潜鸭, two males (SFB)

2011

2nd Mar, Bar-headed Goose 斑头雁, two (SM)

8th Mar, Long-tailed Rosefinch 长尾雀 2011 (SM)

24th May, Red-necked Stint 红颈滨鹬, four (SM)

28th Sep, White's Thrush 怀氏虎鸫 (SFB)

19th Dec, Common Gull 海鸥 (PH)

2012

22nd Apr, Pied Harrier 鹊鸚, male (ZX & SFB)

8th May, Ringed Plover 剑鸻 (SFB)

7th May, Baillon's Crake 小田鸡 (SFB)

7th May, Chinese Penduline Tit 中华攀雀 (SFB)

8th May, Green-headed Wagtail 绿头鹡鸰 (SFB)

16th May, Chinese Song Thrush 宝兴歌鸫 (SFB)

21st May, Von Schrenck's Bittern 紫背苇干干鸟 (SFB)

28th May, Yellow-legged Buttonquail 黄脚三趾鹑 (TT)

28th May, Pere David's Bush Warbler 北短翅莺 (SFB)

16th Jun, Eastern Great Tit 远东山雀 (J-EN via PH).

9th Aug, Hair-crested Drongo 发冠卷尾, two (TT)

12th Sep, Grey-tailed Tattler 灰尾漂鹬 (PA)

2013

13th Jan, Japanese Reed Bunting 红颈苇鹀, "a few" (SFB)

13th Jan, Dunlin 黑腹滨鹬 (SFB)

16th Jan, Peregrine Falcon 游隼 (SFB)

31st Jan, Pine Bunting 白头鹀 (SFB)

23rd Feb, Merlin 灰背隼 (TT)

23rd Feb, Goldcrest, six 戴菊 (TT)

5th Mar, Bohemian Waxwing 太平鸟, four (SFB)

10th Mar, Black-throated Thrush 黑颈鸫, two (ZX & SFB)

10th Mar, Dusky Thrush 斑鸫 (SFB)

16th Mar, Hawfinch 锡嘴雀, seven (SFB)

16th Mar, Red-throated Thrush 赤颈鸫 (SFB)

25th Mar, Crested Lark 凤头百灵 (SFB)

30th Apr, Lesser Kestrel 黄爪隼 (SFB)

1st May, Yellow-browed Bunting 黄眉鹀, eight (SFB)

1st May, Chinese Leaf Warbler 云南柳莺 to the 5th (SFB)

1st May, Hume's Warbler 淡眉柳莺 (SFB)

1st May, Eurasian Siskin 黄雀, two (SFB)

3rd May, Gull-billed Tern 鸥嘴噪鸥, seven (SFB)

4th May, Fea's Thrush 褐头鹟 (SFB)

10th May, Armand's Warbler 棕眉柳莺 – (SFB)

13th May, Eye-browed Thrush 白眉鹟 (SFB)

16th May, Cinnamon Bittern 栗苇干干鸟, male (SFB)

16th May, Siberian Flycatcher 乌鹟, two (SFB)

16th May, Manchurian Reed Warbler 远东苇莺 (SFB)

20th May, Pale-legged Leaf Warbler 淡脚柳莺 (SFB)

21st May, Swinhoe's Robin 红尾歌鸲 (SFB)

22nd May, Grey-faced Buzzard 灰脸鵟鹰 (SFB)

25th May, Ruddy-breasted Crake 红胸田鸡 (SFB)

15th Sep, Black-winged Kite 黑翅鸢 (SFB)

21st Sep, Mongolian Lark 蒙古百灵 (ZX)

3rd Nov, Lapland Bunting 铁爪鹀 (SFB)

2014

12th Jan, Northern Goshawk 苍鹰 (SFB)

19th Apr, Asian House Martin 烟腹毛脚燕 (DM & SFB)

11th May, Whimbrel 中杓鹬 (DM & SFB)

30th May, Long-tailed Shrike 棕背伯劳 (AM)

14th Sep, Turnstone 翻石鹬 (DM & SFB)

28th Sep, Buff-throated Warbler 棕腹柳莺 (SFB)

2015

- 5th Mar, Silky Starling 丝光椋鸟 (SFB)**
- 29th Mar, 'Masked' Wagtail 白鹡鸰 (SFB)**
- 6th Apr, Meadow Pipit 草地鹨 (SFB)**
- 10th Apr, Asian Short-toed Lark 亚洲短趾百, nine (SFB)**
- 5th May, Greater Short-toed Lark 大短趾百 (TT)**
- 15th May, Greater Sand Plover 铁嘴沙鸻 (ZX)**
- 18th May, Short-toed Eagle 短趾雕 (SFB)**
- 20th May, Blyth's Pipit 布氏鹨, 'a few' (SFB)**
- 21st May, Gull-billed Tern 鸥嘴噪鸥 (SFB)**
- 22st May, Grey-faced Buzzard 灰脸鵟鹰 (SFB)**
- 23rd May Cinnamon Bittern 栗苇干干鸟, female (SFB)**
- 28th Nov, Brandt's Horned Lark 白角百灵, six (TT & ML)**
- 7th Dec, Greater Flamingo 大红鹳 (LH)**

Special Thanks

All birders are inspired by the people who write the first reports from a region, area, or site. It has been a great pleasure for me to walk in the footsteps of the two Wenyu pioneers – Brian Jones (BIJ) and Spike Millington (SM), whose records light up many of the pages of this book. Thank you Brian and Spike!

A special thanks also to Paul Holt (PH) for so generously sharing his personal Wenyu records as well the records that he had gathered over the years from numerous birders. I have marked the records that I hadn't found and noted elsewhere in my earlier trawls of various sources as "[finders initials..] via PH." Thanks again Paul.

I am also grateful to Wu Qi (WQi) for his numerous records from the 'early days', and for very kindly allowing me use three of the best photographs in the book – those of Tundra Bean Goose, Long-tailed Duck and Greater Scaup (all Wenyu 'firsts' no less).

This book would not have been possible without the finders of the birds. Grateful thanks to them all for unselfishly filing their records in the public domain. In future editions, I would like to list their names as well as initials. So, if your record appears here and you would like me to add your name, then please let me know and I will happily do so. And if you have records of birds you've seen on the Wenyu that haven't made it into this edition, then please let me know and I will include them in future editions.

Finally, many thanks indeed to Terry Townshend (TT) for taking the time to read a draft of this book, and for all his extremely helpful comments and suggestions. Many readers will know Terry as Mr Birding Beijing (www.BirdingBeijing.com). As well as helping the conservation effort that benefits Beijing's birds, Terry works tirelessly – with governments, NGOs, corporations, organisations, and Chinese schools – for the wider benefit of the birds of China and the habitats they depend on. He is also a keen birder of course, and has seen more bird species in Beijing than anyone else other than Paul Holt. To cap it all, he has inspired more local birders – young and old – than anyone I know. Thank you Terry!

Free to Share... But not free to print or change

Later editions, including translations of this book will be published in the traditional sense, and 'hard' copies will be available at a price that just about covers the cost of production. It will be free to Beijing schools and other deserving organisations and groups.

However, because I am very keen for it to quickly reach people in China who have an interest in birds and nature – particularly China's young people – I am working with Terry Townshend to make this, the first edition, available as a free-to-enjoy PDF that can be downloaded from Terry's wonderful www.BirdingBeijing.com website.

It is also intended to be of use to anyone who finds themselves in Beijing for a few days, weeks, or even years. A walk (or cycle ride) by the Wenyu river is a real eye-opener, not just for birders but also for anyone interested in nature or seeing a side of Beijing that deserves to be enjoyed by more people.

Therefore, if you know anyone who might be interested in any aspect of the Wenyu River, then please feel free to send them a copy of this PDF. The more people who know about the natural wonders of the Wenyu, the more likely it is that the river will be better protected.

All I ask is that it is only distributed electronically, and that it is done so in its entirety (please don't print it, and please don't edit or change it in any way).

As mentioned, later editions will also be translated into Chinese. If someone would like to volunteer to do this, then please contact Terry or myself with his or her proposal.

And, of course, the photos must not be used or distributed without a license. My website www.ChineseCurrents.com has details of the rural school in Guizhou province – in one of the poorest areas of China – that would be the sole beneficiary of the usage fees.

I am happy to license all of the photos (excluding, of course, the three that belong to Wu Qi) in high resolution format and without the 'watermarks', for various uses in exchange for a small donation, paid directly to the school.

Happy Wenyu Birding/Walking/Cycling!

Steve Bale (SFB) 史進

1st September 2017, Beijing.

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