

**Beidaihe (and region), Hebei province;
23rd January to 3rd February 2009**



23rd January

Lotus Hills: Several Red-billed Blue Magpies; numerous common Magpies and Tree Sparrows of course. Single Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, Grey-headed Woodpecker and Great-spotted Woodpecker.

Stone Garden: c30 Yellow-bellied Tits; many Eastern Great Tits; c20 Bohemian Waxwings (in the tall trees by the stream).





24th January

Lotus Hills: Hawfinch (in the enclosed garden); c12 Long-tailed Tits; several Marsh Tits; a few Yellow-throated Buntings (at least 1 male). A few Rufous Turtle Doves.

25th January

Yang He (Frozen): no birds

Qilihai (Frozen): 1 Vega Gull; Common Buzzard (over sand dunes); c20 Red-breasted Mergansers flying east; several Goldeneye on sea; 1 Curlew on the shore;

27th January

A few Black-tailed Gulls near to Pigeon's Nest Park; 1 Oriental Greenfinch and c12 Chinese Bulbul near there.

Sandflat reedbed: a few Pallas's Reed Bunting; prolonged views of Water Rail.



29th January

After six days when the temperature was sub-zero during the day (low of minus six – and minus 16 at night), at last, a slight thaw:

Yang He: 138 Ruddy Shelducks; c30 Yellow-nibbed Ducks; several Mallard.

Yang He Woods: Male and female Yellow-throated Buntings; several Little Buntings.

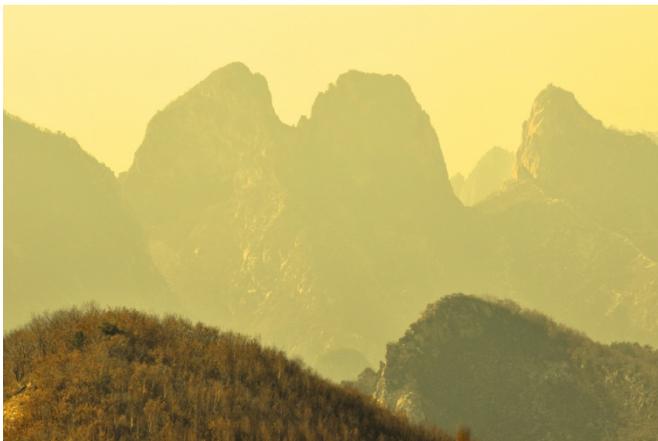
Yang He ponds: Several Pallas's Reed Bunting and c30 Bearded Tits.





30th January

Zu Shan (Old Peak) 9am – 2pm: Several Chinese Nuthatches; several Siberian Accentors; a dozen or so Long-tailed Tits; a few Ravens; one flock of c25 Vinous-throated Parrotbills; c20 Eastern Great Tits (scattered); 2 Pere David's Laughingthrushes (behind the gatehouse).





2nd February (11.30am – 5pm)

Yang He: c60 Ruddy Shelducks; 1 Common Shelduck; c100 Yellow-nibbed Ducks; c40 Mallard.

Da Pu River: c10 Oriental Skylarks; a few Pallas's Reed Bunting; a Kestrel.

Qilihai: Still frozen

West of Qilihai: 2 Pheasant (male); several Rufous Turtle Dove; a few Pallas's Reed Buntings; 1 Upland Buzzard; 1 Northern Goshawk; 1 Chinese Grey Shrike; and, on the way back, c80 Common Cranes coming in to roost on Qilihai – the most impressive of the 42 species seen during a particularly cold period in the Beidaihe region.

