

Birding at
ZHALONG
HEILONGJIANG
Northern China
17-19 June 2013



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INTRODUCTION

In mid-June 2013 I spent almost three days birding at the world renown Zhalong National Nature Reserve (NNR) near the city of Qiqihar in Heilongjiang. I flew there and back from Beijing and was particularly interested to see Manchurian Reed Warbler and Northern Parrotbill. Thanks in no small measure to so excellent and timely gen from Mikael BAUER I saw both easily – but, while I saw about 20 parrotbills I only ever saw four different Manchurian Reed Warblers. Other highlights included a family part of eight Swan Geese, a Red-necked Grebe on two dates, up to five Oriental Storks on all three days, perhaps as many as 15 different Great Bittern, two White-naped Crane, up to four Red-crowned Cranes on all three days, over 1400 bird-days of White-winged Tern, the first Black Tern for Heilongjiang on two dates, a single Eurasian Collared Dove, two Bearded Reedlings, a single Common Starling, at least five singing Yellow-breasted and 10 singing Japanese Reed Buntings.

I recorded a modest 71 species.

Zhalong NNR received the following entry in the BirdLife International (2009) *Directory of Important Bird Areas in China (Mainland): Key Sites for Conservation*. Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International (English language edition).

IBA CODE: CN011

NAME: Zhalong Nature Reserve

CRITERIA: A1 A4i,A4iii

AREA: About 210,000 ha

COORDINATES: 47°12'N 124°12'E

ALTITUDE: 140-146 m

CONSERVATION STATUS: Established as a provincial-level nature reserve in 1979, upgraded to a national nature reserve in 1987, and designated in 1992 as a 'Wetland of International Importance' (or Ramsar site) under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Zhalong is located on the lower Wuyur He river, a tributary of the Nen Jiang river, 44 km from Qiqihar. The main habitat is marshland, and there are 228 pools and large areas of reed bed (80% of the total area). The open water is used by swimming birds, while the marshes are used by waders. The most serious threat to the nature reserve is overexploitation of water resources for agriculture and oil mining.

THREATENED SPECIES: *Grus leucogeranus* (CR), *Ciconia boyciana* (EN), *Anser cygnoides* (EN), *Grus japonensis* (EN), *Anser erythropus* (VU), *Anas formosa* (VU), *Aythya baeri* (VU), *Aquila clanga* (VU), *Grus vipio* (VU), *Grus monacha* (VU), *Otis tarda* (VU), *Megalurus pryeri* (VU)

CONGREGATORY WATERBIRDS: *Threskiornis melanocephalus*, *Platalea leucorodia*, *Aythya baeri*, *Grus leucogeranus*, *Grus vipio*, *Grus monacha*, *Grus japonensis*

IMPORTANCE TO OTHER FAUNA AND FLORA: Most of the plants in the area are herbaceous.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As usual WANG Qingyu of China Bird Tours organised my short trip booking my planes tickets, hotel and taxis.

Terry TOWNSHEND gave me the contact details of ZHU Bingrun – a student studying ornithology at Harbin University that he met while on a Jankowski's Bunting survey in May 2013. Unfortunately Bingrun was unable to join me on my trip (he had some end of term examinations) but provided useful information on Zhalong and recommended the Qiqihar hotel that I used. He also gave us the contact details of a couple of Qiqihar taxi drivers that he and other birders had used before.

Mikael BAUER provided some superbly detailed and up-to-date information on the sites at Zhalong where he had seen Manchurian Reed Warbler and Northern Parrotbill earlier this spring.

Richard LEWTHWAITE provided prompt and detailed information on previous sighting of Black Tern in Eastern China while both Geoff CAREY and Hannu JÄNNES confirmed their sightings.

Thanks to all.

DAILY DIARY

Sunday 16 June 2013. Flew Beijing to Qiqihar, Heilongjiang.

I left Tongzhou at 16h00 and headed to terminal 3 of Beijing's Capital Airport. My 19h05 Air China flight (CA1659) was scheduled to arrive in Qiqihar (=Qiqihaer), Heilongjiang at 21h05 and actually left the gate five minutes early, taking off at 19h12. We also landed in Qiqihar earlier than scheduled at 20h47. Retrieving my luggage was smooth and efficient and I was in a taxi and away by 21h02. The journey to the hotel took just 20 minutes and cost 50 yuan - though the driver initially asked for 200!

I arrived at the Guomai Dasha (Guaomai Mansion) Hotel, No. 1 Junxiao Jie, Tiefeng Qu, Qiqihar (tel. +86 0452 2416676) in the centre of Qiqihar at about 21h20. My room here cost 258 yuan/night.

Guomai Dasha (Guaomai Mansion) Hotel. (47°20.4'N., 123°57.8'E.).

Weather

The day's temperature had ranged from 17-29°C in Qiqihar.

Monday 17 June 2013. All day Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar, Heilongjiang.

My pre-arranged taxi driver (Mr XIE mobile 15636277155) picked me up at the Guomai Dasha (Guaomai Mansion) Hotel in Qiqihar on time at 03h30 and we headed off to Zhalong NNR. We arrived there, after a terrifying high speed ride, 25 minutes later at 03h55.

Interestingly the first thing that the airport taxi driver from Qiqihar airport in to the city told me about Zhalong was that there are lots of mosquitoes! The first thing that Mr XIE told me this morning about Zhalong was also that there are lots of mosquitos! The second thing that both of them told me about the reserve was that there used to be lots of birds – but in recent years there haven't been as many! The mosquito's weren't anywhere near as bad at Zhalong today as I had feared!

Note that it was already light enough to see at 03h30.

Sunrise and sunset in Qiqihar on the 17 June 2013.

Sunrise	03h46
Sunset	19h42

The route took me towards the G10 expressway (the one that leads to Daxing [and Harbin?]).

Passed the village of Bian Tun 03h42

Turning to the Keqin wetland at km post 8 03h45

This isn't a reserve or even a protected area – but was somewhere the driver knew from talking with his fishermen friends. I visited this site twice during this trip.

Km 14.5 passed a construction site for the 5-star Yutang Spring hotel and residential complex ca.03h50

We passed the Zhalong NNR ticket barrier (at about kilometre 21.5) and arrived at the small road junction with the bijiu sign that Mikael Bauer had told me about at about 03h55. This sign is about 300-400 metres inside the nature reserve.

Zhalong NNR is officially open from 07h00 – 18h00 but, because there are several villages inside the reserve, the barrier is open outside of these hours. I entered the reserve well before it opened on all three days that I was in the area – abut paid my entrance fee on my way out.

Weather

Immaculately clear and hot with the day's temperature ranging from 17-29°C in Qiqihar. Slightly windy midday but little cloud cover at any stage.

Site 1. Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar. (47°11.35'N., 124°12.92'E.). 152 metres. (03h55-13h45)

This one kilometre long trail heads out to Long Hu (= Dragon Lake) - a modest sized lake to the rear of the green roofed single and two storey series of buildings that will, once finished, become a hotel/restaurant complex. The lake gives the village of Zhalong

the second half of its name. The hotel/restaurant complex was under construction in mid-June 2013 and is not obvious from the main road in to Zhalong NNR. It is accessed by turning right off the main road in to Zhalong NNR about 300-400 metres after passing the reserve barrier. There's a large advertising billboard on the right (it's currently advertising baijiu – the traditional Chinese spirit). On my first visit we parked up at this small junction here (47°11.65'N., 124°12.89'E. – a site that is 26 kilometres east-south-east of Qiqihar city) and I walked slowly up the road to the right – heading about 800-900 metres off towards the hotel and restaurant. The attractive boardwalk trail that leads out to Long Hu and starts immediately besides this hotel. The trail is accessed by crossing a small footbridge across the drainage channel immediately to the left of the hotel. Once over this bridge turn immediately right and walk, on an initially indistinct path, about 200 metres out to a small thatched roof shelter. There's a wooden bridge here that takes you back across the same drainage channel, take this and continue on the path down the edge of the channel for another 50 metres. A rather flimsy, and at times unstable, boardwalk heads from there out in to the reed bed – and eventually leads to a another shelter – a larger red roofed one about 500 metres out through the reed bed. That shelter is right on the edge of Long Hu and the boardwalk immediately beyond it offers a good views of the lake.

The reed bed held two singing Manchurian Reed Warblers and quite a few Northern Parrotbills – I saw both of these species on all three visits that I made to the site. There were also decent numbers of marsh terns (including one Black Tern), Great Bitterns and Black-browed Reed Warblers in the area. A summer plumaged Red-necked Grebe was one of rather few birds out on the lake itself.



Manchurian Reed Warbler at Long Hu

The lake's about 2.5 x 1 kilometre in size and is, like most lakes in China's wetland reserves, clearly heavily utilized for fishing. There are also plans to develop it for a tourist amusement area – with rafts and dinghies already being inflated while I was there.

I spent almost ten hours in the Long Hu area before heading on to my second site of the day. This involved driving back out of the reserve and heading almost halfway back to Qiqihar city.

Site 2. Road out towards the Keqin wetland. (47°17.68'N., 124°15.20'E.). 145 metres. (14h15-17h55).

This site is 24 kilometres almost due east of Qiqihar city.

The road out to the Keqin wetland starts at kilometre post 8 - about midway on the road between Qiqihar city and Zhalong NNR. It's well marked - there's a school on the left as you're coming out from Qiqihar and quite a few ornamental cranes right at the junction. The road out to Keqin passes several wetland areas with shallow roadside pools, small marshes and areas of grassland and I made numerous stops along it.

Both White-winged and Whiskered Terns were common and the area also held decent numbers of breeding Eurasian and Grey-headed Lapwings, Black-winged Stilts, Oriental Pratincoles and Marsh Sandpipers. I saw a pair of Red-crowned Cranes at 47°17.68'N., 124°15.20'E. on my first visit and four birds on the opposite side of the road to Keqin Hu (Keqin lake) on my second.

Perhaps the best area in the Keqin wetland. (47°17.38'N., 124°15.82'E.). 150 metres.

This site is 25 kilometres almost due east of Qiqihar city and there were six singing male Japanese Reed Buntings here on my first visit.

Keqin Hu (=Keqin Lake). (47°17.02'N., 124°16.92'E.). 151 metres.

This site is 26.6kms almost due east of Qiqihar city.

The village of Keqin is about five or six kilometres beyond the start of this large lake.

Leaving Keqin Hu at 17h55 we headed back to Qiqihar, arrived back on the main Qiqihar to Zhalong road almost 20 minutes later (at 18h14) and at the Guomai Dasha hotel at about 18h35.

Common Pheasant	13 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. Five of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper, another 20 were at the Keqin wetland while about 25 others were seen at numerous miscellaneous sites between these two main areas and Qiqihar city.
Gadwall	2, a pair, at the Keqin wetland near Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 17/6/2013.
Mallard	20 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. 10 of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with another 10 at the Keqin wetland.
Eastern Spot-billed Duck	42 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. 25 of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper, another 15 were at the Keqin wetland while two others were seen between these two main areas and Qiqihar city.
Northern Shoveler	1 male at the Keqin wetland near Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 17/6/2013.
Eurasian Teal	1 male at the Keqin wetland near Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 17/6/2013.
Common Pochard	2 from the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.
Little Grebe	4 from the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.
Red-necked Grebe	1 summer plumaged adult from the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.
Great Crested Grebe	20 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. 10 of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with another 10 at the Keqin wetland.
Oriental Stork	1 flew over the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.
Eurasian Bittern	12 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. Eight of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with another four at the Keqin wetland.
Grey Heron	9 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. Seven of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with another two at the Keqin wetland.
Purple Heron	18 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. 12 of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with another six at the Keqin wetland.
Eastern Marsh Harrier	12 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. Eight of these, five males, were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with another four at the Keqin wetland.
Pied Harrier	1 adult male near the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.
Amur Falcon	51 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. Just six of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper, another 20 were at the Keqin wetland while about 25 others were seen at numerous miscellaneous sites between these two main areas and Qiqihar city.
Common Moorhen	1 was heard from the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.
Eurasian Coot	1 was heard from the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.
Red-crowned Crane	2, a pair, at the Keqin wetland near Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar (47°17.68'N., 124°15.20'E.) on the 17/6/2013.
Black-winged Stilt	40 at the Keqin wetland near Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 17/6/2013.
Northern Lapwing	52 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. Two of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with another 50 at the Keqin wetland.
Grey-headed Lapwing	8 near the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.
Little Ringed Plover	1 flew over the Keqin wetland near Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 17/6/2013.
Eurasian Curlew	4 at the Keqin wetland near Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 17/6/2013.
Common Redshank	4 at the Keqin wetland near Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 17/6/2013.
Marsh Sandpiper	15 at the Keqin wetland near Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 17/6/2013.
Oriental Pratincole	10 at the Keqin wetland near Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 17/6/2013.
Black-headed Gull	8 near the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.
Common Tern	4 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. One of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper, another two, an apparent pair, were at the Keqin wetland while the fourth and final bird was seen on the drive back to Qiqihar city.

Whiskered Tern	190 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. 120 of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with another 70 at the Keqin wetland.
White-winged Tern	600 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. 250 of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with another 3500 at the Keqin wetland.
Black Tern	1 summer-plumaged adult was well seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013 (Paul Holt). Apparently the first record for Heilongjiang.
Eurasian Collared Dove	1 singing from an overhead power line near the start of the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.
Indian Cuckoo	2 single singing birds in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. The first was near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with the other at the Keqin wetland.
Common Cuckoo	14 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. Six of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with another eight at the Keqin wetland.
[Common Kingfisher	1 bird, possibly this species, was heard at the Keqin wetland near Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 17/6/2013].
Brown Shrike	4, two pairs, near the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.
Eurasian Magpie	14 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. Six of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with another eight at the Keqin wetland.
Rook	35 besides the main road between Zhalong NNR and the turning east to the Keqin wetland on the 17/6/2013.
Chinese Penduline Tit	5 singles in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. Four of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with the other at the Keqin wetland.
Eurasian Skylark	10 at the Keqin wetland near Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 17/6/2013.
Sand Martin	1 at the Keqin wetland near Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 17/6/2013.
Barn Swallow	35 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. 20 of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper, another 10 were at the Keqin wetland while about six others were seen at numerous miscellaneous sites between these two main areas and Qiqihar city. About 10 birds were <i>tytleri</i> .
Red-rumped Swallow	60 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. 30 of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with another 30 at the Keqin wetland.
[Dusky Warbler	1 silent bird, possibly this species, was glimpsed from the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013].
Oriental Reed Warbler	20 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. Five of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with the other 15 at the Keqin wetland.
Black-browed Reed Warbler	35 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. 25 of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with another 10 at the Keqin wetland.
Manchurian Reed Warbler	3 singing birds near the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. The first was in the reed bed to the left of the approach road in almost the last patch of tall reeds about 550 metres along the track from the main road in to the park and perhaps 400 metres before the 'Long Hu' hotel. That's site is about 25 metres before the first, smaller track off to the right. That bird was at 47°11.35'N., 124°12.92'E. & 152 metres while the other two were singing from the Long Hu boardwalk itself with the first of those being at 47°10.93'N., 124°12.89'E. The latter were about 250 & 300 metres from the red roofed shelter at the very end of the boardwalk.
Thick-billed Warbler	1 singing bird near the hotel at the start of the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.
[Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler	1 bird, possibly this species, was heard near the start of the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013].
Northern Parrotbill	11 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. 10 of these, including four recently fledged juveniles, were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with the other, an adult, at the Keqin wetland.



White-cheeked Starling	6, four singles and a pair, were seen near the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.
Common Starling	1 with two White-cheeked Starlings, near the hotel at the start of the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	15 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. Five of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with another 10 at the Keqin wetland.
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	35 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. Five of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with another 30 at the Keqin wetland. 20 birds at the second site were seen well enough to racially assign - and they were all <i>macronyx</i> .
White Wagtail	1 adult male <i>leucopsis</i> near the hotel at the start of the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.
Richard's Pipit	1 singing bird at the Keqin wetland near Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 17/6/2013.
[Chestnut-eared Bunting	1 bird, possibly this species, was glimpsed near the hotel at the start of the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013].
Yellow-breasted Bunting	3 singing males besides the short approach road to the hotel near the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.
Black-faced Bunting	1 near the hotel at the start of the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.
Japanese Reed Bunting	9 singing males in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. Three of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with the other six at the Keqin wetland.

Tuesday 18 June 2013. All day Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar, Heilongjiang.

The Guomai Dasha hotel wasn't great - my room was very hot (the A/C was clearly faulty) and the toilet broken so I decided to move elsewhere.

Mr XIE was early today and, once I'd checked out, the two of us headed off back to Zhalong. We left the Guomai Dasha (Guomai Mansion) Hotel at 03h22 and, despite my frequent protests, Mr XIE again drove faster than I wanted him to and we arrived at the check post in to Zhalong NNR just 26 minutes later at 03h48.

I first birded a different area in the reserve today – the tourist area around the ‘Crane Farm’ and we drove straight in, past the first barrier where tickets should be bought (but it was only 03h48, much too early and there was no-one present) and on in past the second barrier where independent vehicles are usually prevented from going further. That was also un-manned so we went straight in to the main tourist complex with Mr XIE dropping me as close to the lake edge as he could.

Site 1. Lake edge in the main building complex & HQ area at Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar. (47°11.7'N., 124°14.0'E.). 153 metres. (03h50-11h00).

I then headed off spending the rest of the morning walking the boardwalk around the lake edge and through the tourist area of the park. I initially followed the bi-lingual signs to the ‘Star Crane Photograph’ and later to the ‘Crane Fly Area’. I was heading northeast – with the boardwalk taking me up the eastern side of the lake. In all I walked perhaps 1.5 kilometres out from the car park – going right to the northern end of the boardwalk. From a distance you can see a group of about a dozen white ornamental tent-like awnings (there's a small drinks and snack stall here) and they are about 200 metres short of the end of the boardwalk.

This boardwalk trail was an attractive one – it led along a shallow ridge with the fairly extensive lakeside reed bed on the left (west) and, eventually, a much more extensive reed bed well off to the right (east). The reeds were fairly short however and, while there were reasonable numbers of Black-browed and a few Oriental Reed Warblers and a decent number of Northern Parrotbills (I counted nine different individuals with birds being encountered at five different sites along the boardwalk) I didn't hear a single Manchurian Reed Warbler until I reached the very end of the boardwalk. The trail ends about 100 metres north of a small hillock that's essentially a bird viewing area. There's a deep water channel immediately beyond the hillock that prevents people from going any further – though there are three screened crane pens and a small house for the ‘crane keeper’ a short distance over on the other side. Mikael Bauer had seen a Manchurian Reed Warbler here when he was at Zhalong earlier in the spring, and that bird was still present today, singing persistently in the reeds at the north-eastern end of the boardwalk. Unfortunately it was the other side of the deep water channel and a bit distant but it sat up conspicuously, was singing when I arrived at 06h05 and was still doing so when I left that spot 45 minutes later!

The area was fairly quiet early in the early morning – but there's what appeared to be a temporary oil drilling installation being built and they received several deliveries of truckloads of concrete so it soon became much noisier. Once the tourists started to arrive the staff also turned on the piped music (at 07h45!) – and that was essentially the end of making any sound recordings of even modest quality!

After spending a while with the Manchurian Reed Warbler, and more time with the parrotbills, I wandered slowly back to the main tourist complex. The whole area was now very busy with domestic tourists and I was glad to be leaving. I walked back the same way that I'd arrived – but then swung around to check out the crane breeding station near the southern boat dock.

In all there must be in excess of 150 feral cranes in various cages and pens inside Zhalong NNR. The vast majority are Red-crowned with smaller numbers of White-naped, Siberian, Common, one or two Hooded and even one Sandhill. There were also a few Oriental Storks in the same pens and large numbers of free-range Swan Geese. At least one of the bilingual signs indicated that the cranes were gradually being released in to the wild.

I arrived back at the taxi at 11h00 and met up with Mr XIE half-an-hour later. After a lengthy midday break the two of us headed off to yesterday's site – the Long Hu boardwalk trail.

Site 2. Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar. (47°11.35'N., 124°12.92'E.). 152 metres. (13h00-17h45)

Weather

Another immaculately clear and hot day's with temperatures ranging from 18-28°C in Qiqihar. 0/8 cloud cover in the early morning and slightly windy midday.

Common Pheasant	3 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. One of these was in the reserve proper with the other being near the between there and Qiqihar city.
Swan Goose	8, two adults and six fledglings, at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. They were wary and were thought to be wild.
Mallard	115 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. 110, including one flock of 80 birds, of these were in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other five being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail.
Eastern Spot-billed Duck	12 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. 10 of these were in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other two being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail.
Common Pochard	4 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. Two of these were in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other two, also singles, being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail.
Little Grebe	2 were heard from the Long Hu boardwalk trail at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.
Great Crested Grebe	20 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. 10 of these were in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other 10 being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail.
Oriental Stork	5 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. Four of these (an adult in a nest with two chicks and a separate adult that was seen twice in flight) were in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other adult being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail.
Eurasian Bittern	11 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. This species was particularly difficult to count or estimate but Great Bitterns were frequently seen in flight and/or heard booming Six of these were estimated to be in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other five being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail.
Von Schrenck's Bittern	1 bird, possibly this species, was heard in the main tourist part of the reserve at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.
Grey Heron	10 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. Five of these were in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other five being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail.
Purple Heron	18 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. 10 of these were in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other eight being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail.
Eastern Marsh Harrier	5 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. Three of these were in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other two being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail.
Pied Harrier	1 adult male was seen several times quartering the marsh near the ticket booth and barrier on the way in to Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. boardwalk trail'.
Amur Falcon	29 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. Five of these were in the reserve proper, another seven were from the Long Hu boardwalk trail and the remaining 17 were seen besides the road on the drive back to Qiqihar.
Common Moorhen	2 were heard at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.
White-naped Crane	2 in flight at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013 were thought to be genuinely wild.
Red-crowned Crane	1 very distant bird that was seen in flight north of the main tourist area at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013 was possibly genuinely wild.
Black-winged Stilt	5 near the main tourist area at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.
Northern Lapwing	2 near the Long Hu boardwalk trail at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.
Grey-headed Lapwing	4, two pairs, at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. The first pair were in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other pair being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail.
Little Ringed Plover	2 singles at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. The first of these was in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other being seen over the Long Hu boardwalk trail.
Eurasian Curlew	1 was heard near the main tourist area at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.
Common Redshank	1 near the main tourist area at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.
Marsh Sandpiper	2 singles at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. The first of these was in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other being seen over the Long Hu boardwalk trail.
Wood Sandpiper	1 near the main tourist area at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.
Black-headed Gull	2 singles, an adult and a first-summer, from the Long Hu boardwalk trail at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.
Little Tern	2 near the main tourist area at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.
Whiskered Tern	95 in & around Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. About 50 of these were around the main tourist complex inside the park, another 40 were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail while the other five were between the nature reserve and Qiqihar city.
White-winged Tern	495 in & around Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. 325 were counted around the main tourist complex inside the park, another 160 were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail while the other 15 were between the nature reserve and Qiqihar city.
Common Cuckoo	10 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. Six of these were in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other four being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail.
Eurasian Magpie	16 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. 10 of these were in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other six being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail.
Chinese Penduline Tit	4 singles near the main tourist area at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.
Bearded Reedling	2 males near the main tourist area at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.
Sand Martin	8 near the main tourist area at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.

Barn Swallow	70, including over 10 <i>ryleri</i> , at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. 40 of these were in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other 30 being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail.
Red-rumped Swallow	60 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. 30 of these were in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other 30 being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail.
Oriental Reed Warbler	20 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. 15 of these were in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other five being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail.
Black-browed Reed Warbler	45 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. 25 of these were in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other 15 being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail.
Manchurian Reed Warbler	2 separate singing birds at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. The first of these was right at the end of the boardwalk trail in the main tourist part of the reserve (47°12.51'N., 124°14.39'E. & 152 metres) with the other being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail.
Northern Parrotbill	11 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. Nine of these (three separate single adults, two juveniles and a party of four juveniles) were seen at four separate sites in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other two adults, a pair, being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail.



A juvenile Northern Parrotbill near Long Hu

White-cheeked Starling	1 near the main tourist area at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	80 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. About 50 of these were in & around the main tourist complex inside the park while the other 30 were around the hotel at the start of the Long Hu boardwalk trail.
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	5 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. Four of these were in & around the main tourist complex inside the park while the other was around the hotel at the start of the Long Hu boardwalk trail.
Richard's Pipit	1 near the main tourist area at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.
Yellow-breasted Bunting	2 separate singing males near the main tourist area at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.
Japanese Reed Bunting	1 singing male near the main tourist area at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.
Common Reed Bunting	3, a pair and a separate female, near the main tourist area at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.

Wednesday 19 June 2013. Most of day around Qiqihar. Late evening flight back to Beijing.

Nen Jiang Hotel, 29 Fengheng road, Qiqihar 161005. Tel./fax. (0452) 2472828. Rooms here cost 500 yuan/night. (47°20.24'N., 123°56.36'E.).

I left the Nen Jiang Hotel at 03h32 and drove straight back to Zhalong NNR. Arriving at the main gate/barrier at 04h10 we headed straight through the un-manned gate and took the first turning right. We parked besides the hotel that was being renovated and then headed off on the Long Hu trail. I spent almost 4.5 hours on this boardwalk trail before returning to the vehicle for a picnic breakfast.

Site 1. Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar. (47°11.35'N., 124°12.92'E.). 152 metres. (04h10-08h30)

Leaving the Long Hu hotel area at 08h30 I headed back to the Keqin wetland.

Passed the construction site for the 5-star Yutang Spring hotel and residential complex 08h40

Turning to the Keqin wetland at Km post 8 08h51

Chang Gou cun 09h12

Oriental Stork 1 flew over

Marsh two kilometres east of Chang Gou (09h20-09h30)

This attractive marsh held a few interesting birds including –

Oriental Stork	1 flew over
Eurasian Spoonbill	3
Great Egret	1
Grey-headed Lapwing	15
Northern Lapwing	15
Eurasian Curlew	6
Pied Avocet	3
Black-winged Stilt	30
Marsh Sandpiper	2
Oriental Pratincole	10
Rook	30

Marsh 300 metres further east (roadside kilometre post 10)

Great Bittern	1
Pied Harrier	1 male
Eastern Marsh Harrier	3
Northern Lapwing	30
Japanese Reed Bunting	1 male

Zhao Lao Da fishing buildings adjacent to Keqin Hu (6.1 kilometres east of Chang Gou)

Grassland immediately to the south of the road just east of the Zhao Lao Da fishing buildings

Richard's Pipit	8
Red-crowned Crane	4

Keqin cun (2.8 kilometres north of the Zhao Lao Da fishing buildings)

Shao Yao Gang cun (2.6 kilometres east of Keqin cun) (47°17.90'N., 124°21.10'E.).

200-300 metres north of the village the road becomes unsurfaced and enters an extensive area of drier grassland with only a limited amount of water and very few reeds. It didn't appear to be particularly productive habitat so we turned around. It was then 11h10.

Weather

The day's temperature ranged from 17-28°C in Qiqihar and it was more overcast today. Cloud cover was about 3/8 in the early morning and while it was still and windless first thing by 10h00 this had changed and it was blustery and less pleasant. A late afternoon thunderstorm that had been forecast arrived at about 17h00 – and the strong downpour lasted about 45 minutes.

Common Pheasant	3 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. One of these was seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another two were at the Keqin wetland .
Mallard	23 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. 15 of these were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another eight were at the Keqin wetland .

Eastern Spot-billed Duck	6 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. Two of these were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another four were at the Keqin wetland .
Common Pochard	8, a group of five and three singles, were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail in Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.
Little Grebe	6 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. One of these was heard from the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another five, an adult with four tiny chicks, were at the Keqin wetland.
Red-necked Grebe	1 summer plumaged adult on Long Hu, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. (Photo).
Great Crested Grebe	14 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. Eight of these were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another six were at the Keqin wetland.
Oriental Stork	2 singles near the Keqin wetland close to Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. The first was close to Chang Gou cun while the other, in a different state of moult, flew over the Chang Gou marsh about two kilometres further east.
Eurasian Spoonbill	3, a single and a pair, in the marsh two kilometres east of Chang Gou in the Keqin wetland close to Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. Two of the three birds were seen in flight - and these were both first-summers.
Eurasian Bittern	8 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. Six of these were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another two were at the Keqin wetland.
Grey Heron	18 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. 12 of these were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another six were at the Keqin wetland.
Purple Heron	18 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. 10 of these were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another eight were at the Keqin wetland.
Great Egret	3 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. Two of these were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another was two kilometres east of Chang Gou in the Keqin wetland.
Great Cormorant	2 flew over the Long Hu boardwalk trail in Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.
Eastern Marsh Harrier	9 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. Five of these were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another four were at the Keqin wetland.
Pied Harrier	1 adult male at the Keqin wetland close to Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.
Amur Falcon	68 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 19/6/2013. Just six of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper, another 32 were at the Keqin wetland while about 300 were seen at numerous miscellaneous sites between these two main areas and Qiqihar city.
Common Moorhen	2 singles were heard in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. The first was besides the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while the other eight was at the Keqin wetland.
Red-crowned Crane	4, a family party, at the Zhao Lao Da fishing buildings near Keqin Hu & close to Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.
Black-winged Stilt	120 at the Keqin wetland close to Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. 30 of these were at the marsh about two kilometres east of Chang Gou.
Pied Avocet	10 at the marsh about two kilometres east of Chang Gou in the Keqin wetland close to Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.
Northern Lapwing	94 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. Four of these were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another 90 were at the Keqin wetland.
Grey-headed Lapwing	32 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. Two of these were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another 30 were at the Keqin wetland.
Eurasian Curlew	6 at the Keqin wetland close to Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.
Spotted Redshank	3 at the Keqin wetland close to Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.
Marsh Sandpiper	6 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. Two of these were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another four were at the Keqin wetland.
Black-headed Gull	2 were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail in Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.
Little Tern	3 at the Keqin wetland close to Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.
Common Tern	7 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. One of these were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another six, including one <i>longipennis</i> & more surprisingly an adult <i>minussensis</i> that it was paired with, at the Keqin wetland.
Whiskered Tern	190 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 19/6/2013. 100 of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper, another 70 were at the Keqin wetland while about 20 were seen at numerous miscellaneous sites between these two main areas and Qiqihar city.
White-winged Tern	365 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 19/6/2013. 120 of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper, another 230 were at the Keqin wetland while about 15 were seen at numerous miscellaneous sites between these two main areas and Qiqihar city.
Black Tern	1 summer plumaged adult over Long Hu, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. It was undoubtedly the same bird as that first seen on the 17th.
Indian Cuckoo	1 was heard near the school at the kilometre 8 turning to the Keqin wetland off the Qiqihar to Zhalong road on the 19/6/2013.
Common Cuckoo	13 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 19/6/2013. Four of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper, another five were at the Keqin wetland while four more were seen at numerous miscellaneous sites between these two main areas and Qiqihar city.
Little Owl	2 separate birds were seen besides the main Qiqihar to Zhalong road on the 19/6/2013. They were both about three or four kilometres east of the turning off to Keqin
Brown Shrike	1 near the start of the Long Hu boardwalk trail in Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.
Eurasian Magpie	25 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 19/6/2013. 10 of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper, another five were at the Keqin wetland while about 10 others were seen at numerous miscellaneous sites between these two main areas and Qiqihar city.
Rook	35 at the Keqin wetland close to Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.
Chinese Penduline Tit	7 singles in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. Three of these were around the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another four were at the Keqin wetland.
Eurasian Skylark	15 at the Keqin wetland close to Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.
Sand Martin	5 from the Long Hu boardwalk trail in Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.
Barn Swallow	140 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. 60 of these were around the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve with another 80 at the Keqin wetland.

Red-rumped Swallow	210 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 19/6/2013.60 of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper, another 30 were at the Keqin wetland while about 120 were seen at numerous miscellaneous sites between these two main areas and Qiqihar city.
Oriental Reed Warbler	9 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. Four of these were around the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another five were at the Keqin wetland.
Black-browed Reed Warbler	30 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. 15 of these were around the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another 15 were at the Keqin wetland.
Manchurian Reed Warbler	2 singing males were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail in Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. They were only about 50 metres apart.
Northern Parrotbill	4, two adults and later to recently fledged juveniles, from the Long Hu boardwalk trail in Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.
White-cheeked Starling	4 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. Two, a pair, were near the start of the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while the other bird was at the Keqin wetland.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	40 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. 20 were around the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another 20 were at the Keqin wetland.
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	50 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. Five of these were around the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another 45 were at the Keqin wetland. 15 birds were seen well enough to racially assign and these were all <i>macronyx</i> .
White Wagtail	2 singles in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. The first, an adult male <i>leucopsis</i> , was besides the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while the other was at the Keqin wetland.
Richard's Pipit	8 singing birds near Keqin Hu close to Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.
Yellow-breasted Bunting	3 singing males near the start of the Long Hu boardwalk trail in Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.
Japanese Reed Bunting	3 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. The first bird, a singing male, was near the start of the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while the other two, an adult male and an attendant but almost fully grown fledgling, were at the Keqin wetland.

BIRD LIST

Four figures are given in parentheses - the first two of these figures details how many days out of 3, that particular species was seen around Zhalong. The third figure notes the highest daily count and the fourth the number of bird-days. Hence the entry for Common Pheasant reads (3/3 13 19) - birds were noted on all three of the of three days, with up to 13 individuals on any one date and with a total of 19 bird-days.

Names, order and taxonomy follow the IOC World Bird Names accessed on-line on 15 Sept. 2011.

COMMON PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus* 雉鸡

(3/3 13 19)

13 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. Five of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper, another 20 were at the Keqin wetland while about 25 others were seen at numerous miscellaneous sites between these two main areas and Qiqihar city.

3 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. One of these was in the reserve proper with the other being near the between there and Qiqihar city.

3 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. One of these was seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another two were at the Keqin wetland .

SWAN GOOSE *Anser cygnoides* VU 鸿雁

(1/3 8 8)

8, two adults and six fledglings, at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. They were wary and were thought to be wild.

GADWALL *Anas strepera* 赤膀鸭

(1/3 2 2)

2, a pair, at the Keqin wetland near Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 17/6/2013.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* 绿头鸭

(3/3 115 158)

20 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. 10 of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with another 10 at the Keqin wetland.

115 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. 110, including one flock of 80 birds, of these were in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other five being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail.

23 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. 15 of these were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another eight were at the Keqin wetland .

EASTERN SPOT-BILLED DUCK *Anas zonorhyncha* 斑嘴鸭

(3/3 42 60)

42 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. 25 of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper, another 15 were at the Keqin wetland while two others were seen between these two main areas and Qiqihar city.

12 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. 10 of these were in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other two being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail.

6 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. Two of these were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another four were at the Keqin wetland .

NORTHERN SHOVELER *Anas clypeata* 琵嘴鸭

(1/3 1 1)

1 male at the Keqin wetland near Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 17/6/2013.

EURASIAN TEAL *Anas crecca* 绿翅鸭

(1/3 1 1)

1 male at the Keqin wetland near Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 17/6/2013.

COMMON POCHARD *Aythya ferina* 红头潜鸭

(3/3 8 14)

2 from the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.

4 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. Two of these were in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other two, also singles, being seen from the Long Hu

boardwalk trail.

8, a group of five and three singles, were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail in Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* 小鸊鷉

(3/3 6 12)

4 from the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.

2 were heard from the Long Hu boardwalk trail at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.

6 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. One of these was heard from the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another five, an adult with four tiny chicks, were at the Keqin wetland.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena* 赤颈鸊鷉

(2/3 1 2)



1 summer plumaged adult from the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.

1 summer plumaged adult on Long Hu, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. (Photo).

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus* 凤头鸊鷉

(3/3 20 54)

20 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. 10 of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with another 10 at the Keqin wetland.

20 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. 10 of these were in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other 10 being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail.

14 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. Eight of these were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another six were at the Keqin wetland.

ORIENTAL STORK *Ciconia boyciana* EN 东方白鹳

(3/3 5 7)

1 flew over the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.

5 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. Four of these (an adult in a nest with two chicks and a separate adult that was seen twice in flight) were in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other adult being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail.

2 singles near the Keqin wetland close to Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. The first was close to Chang Gou cun while the other, in a different state of moult, flew over the Chang Gou marsh about two kilometres further east.

EURASIAN SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia* 白琵鹭

(1/3 3 3)

3, a single and a pair, at the Keqin wetland close to Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. Two of the three birds were seen in flight - and these were both first-summers.

EURASIAN BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris* 大麻千干鸟

(3/3 12 31)

12 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. Eight of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with another four at the Keqin wetland.

11 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. This species was particularly difficult to count or estimate but Great Bitterns were frequently seen in flight and/or heard

booming Six of these were estimated to be in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other five being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail. 8 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. Six of these were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another two were at the Keqin wetland.

[VON SCHRENCK'S BITTERN *Ixobrychus eurhythmus* 紫背苇千干鸟

1 bird, possibly this species, was heard in the main tourist part of the reserve at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013].

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* 苍鹭

(3/3 18 37)

9 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. Seven of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with another two at the Keqin wetland. 10 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. Five of these were in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other five being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail. 18 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. 12 of these were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another six were at the Keqin wetland.

PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea* 草鹭

(3/3 18 54)

18 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. 12 of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with another six at the Keqin wetland. 18 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. 10 of these were in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other eight being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail. 18 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. 10 of these were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another eight were at the Keqin wetland.

GREAT EGRET *Ardea alba* 大白鹭

(1/3 3 3)

3 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. Two of these were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another was at the Keqin wetland.

GREAT CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo* 普通鸬鹚

(1/3 2 2)

2 flew over the Long Hu boardwalk trail in Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.

EASTERN MARSH HARRIER *Circus spilonotus* 白腹鸮

(3/3 12 26)

12 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. Eight of these, five males, were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with another four at the Keqin wetland. 5 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. Three of these were in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other two being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail. 9 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. Five of these were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another four were at the Keqin wetland.

PIED HARRIER *Circus melanoleucos* 鹊鸮

(3/3 1 3)

1 adult male near the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.
1 adult male was seen several times quartering the marsh near the ticket booth and barrier on the way in to Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. boardwalk trail'.
1 adult male at the Keqin wetland close to Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.

AMUR FALCON *Falco amurensis* 红脚隼

(3/3 68 148)

51 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. Just six of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper, another 20 were at the Keqin wetland while about 25 others were seen at numerous miscellaneous sites between these two main areas and Qiqihar city.
29 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. Five of these were in the reserve proper, another seven were from the Long Hu boardwalk trail and the remaining 17 were seen besides the road on the drive back to Qiqihar.
68 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 19/6/2013. Just six of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper, another 32 were at the Keqin wetland while about 300 were seen at numerous miscellaneous sites between these two main areas and Qiqihar city.

COMMON MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* 黑水鸡

(3/3 2 5)

1 was heard from the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.

2 were heard at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.

2 singles were heard in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. The first was besides the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while the other eight was at the Keqin wetland.

EURASIAN COOT *Fulica atra* 骨顶鸡

(1/3 1 1)

1 was heard from the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.

WHITE-NAPED CRANE *Grus vipio* VU 白枕鹤

(1/3 2 2)

2 in flight at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013 were thought to be genuinely wild.

RED-CROWNED CRANE *Grus japonensis* EN 丹顶鹤

(3/3 4 7)

2, a pair, at the Keqin wetland near Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar (47°17.68'N., 124°15.20'E.) on the 17/6/2013.

1 very distant bird that was seen in flight north of the main tourist area at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013 was possibly genuinely wild.

4, a family party, at the Zhao Lao Da fishing buildings near Keqin Hu & close to Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.

BLACK-WINGED STILT *Himantopus himantopus* 黑翅长脚鹬

(3/3 120 165)

40 at the Keqin wetland near Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 17/6/2013.

5 near the main tourist area at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.

120 at the Keqin wetland close to Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.

PIED AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta* 反嘴鹬

(1/3 10 10)

10 at the Keqin wetland close to Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.

NORTHERN LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* 凤头麦鸡

(3/3 94 148)

52 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. Two of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with another 50 at the Keqin wetland.

2 near the Long Hu boardwalk trail at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.

94 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. Four of these were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another 90 were at the Keqin wetland.

GREY-HEADED LAPWING *Vanellus cinereus* 灰头麦鸡

(3/3 32 44)

8 near the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.

4, two pairs, at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. The first pair were in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other pair being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail.

32 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. Two of these were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another 30 were at the Keqin wetland.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius* 金眶鸻

(2/3 2 3)

1 flew over the Keqin wetland near Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 17/6/2013.

2 singles at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. The first of these was in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other being seen over the Long Hu boardwalk trail.

EURASIAN CURLEW *Numenius arquata* NT 白腰杓鹬

(3/3 6 11)

4 at the Keqin wetland near Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 17/6/2013.

1 was heard near the main tourist area at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.
6 at the Keqin wetland close to Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* 鹤鹑

(1/3 3 3)

3 at the Keqin wetland close to Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.

COMMON REDSHANK *Tringa totanus* 红脚鹑

(2/3 4 5)

4 at the Keqin wetland near Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 17/6/2013.

1 near the main tourist area at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.

MARSH SANDPIPER *Tringa stagnatilis* 泽鹑

(3/3 15 23)

15 at the Keqin wetland near Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 17/6/2013.

2 singles at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. The first of these was in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other being seen over the Long Hu boardwalk trail.

6 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. Two of these were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another four were at the Keqin wetland.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* 林鹑

(1/3 1 1)

1 near the main tourist area at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.

ORIENTAL PRATINCOLE *Glareola maldivarum* 普通燕鸻

(2/3 10 20)

10 at the Keqin wetland near Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 17/6/2013.

10 at the Keqin wetland near Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* 红嘴鸥

(3/3 8 12)

8 near the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.

2 singles, an adult and a first-summer, from the Long Hu boardwalk trail at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.

2 were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail in Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.

LITTLE TERN *Sternula albifrons* 白额燕鸥

(2/3 3 5)

2 near the main tourist area at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.

3 at the Keqin wetland close to Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* 普通燕鸥

(2/3 7 11)



minussensis Common Tern at Keqin Hu on the 19 June 2013

4 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. One of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper, another two, an apparent pair, were at the Keqin wetland while the fourth and final bird was seen on the drive back to Qiqihar city.

7 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. One of these were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another six, including one *longipennis* & more surprisingly an adult *minussensis* that it was paired with, at the Keqin wetland.

WHISKERED TERN *Chlidonias hybrida* 须浮鸥

(3/3 190 475)

190 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. 120 of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with another 70 at the Keqin wetland.

95 in & around Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. About 50 of these were around the main tourist complex inside the park, another 40 were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail while the other five were between the nature reserve and Qiqihar city.

190 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 19/6/2013. 100 of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper, another 70 were at the Keqin wetland while about 20 were seen at numerous miscellaneous sites between these two main areas and Qiqihar city.

WHITE-WINGED TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus* 白翅浮鸥

(3/3 600 1460)

600 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. 250 of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with another 350 at the Keqin wetland.

495 in & around Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. 325 were counted around the main tourist complex inside the park, another 160 were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail while the other 15 were between the nature reserve and Qiqihar city.

365 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 19/6/2013. 120 of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper, another 230 were at the Keqin wetland while

about 15 were seen at numerous miscellaneous sites between these two main areas and Qiqihar city.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger* 黑浮鸥

(2/3 1 2)

1 summer-plumaged adult was well seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013 (Paul Holt). Apparently the first record for Heilongjiang.

1 summer plumaged adult over Long Hu, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. It was undoubtedly the same bird as that first seen on the 17th.

Perhaps only the seventh or eighth record for the whole of eastern China. Black Tern is a locally fairly common breeding species in Xinjiang but is rare elsewhere in China. The other sightings in East China are -

Beijing: a specimen collected at Tunghsien (= modern day Tongxian) on 24 August 1933 (Wilder & Hubbard 1938, Note # 128).

The same authors also mention a specimen in the Oberlin Shansi Middle School.

Tianjin: one in June (Seys in Cheng 1987).

Hebei: one at Beidaihe on 4 Oct 1989 (Ben King in Williams 2000).

Jiangsu: one at Yancheng on 12 June 1992 (Geoff Carey in Williams 2002).

Inner Mongolia: a summer-plumaged adult at Medamuji on 9 June 1996 (Hannu Jännes in OBC Bull 25). Also recorded by Xing Lian-lian (2007) at Hulun Nur and Dali Nur.

EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto* 灰斑鸠

(1/3 1 1)

1 singing from an overhead power line near the start of the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.

INDIAN CUCKOO *Cuculus micropterus* 四声杜鹃

(2/3 2 3)

2 single singing birds in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. The first was near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with the other at the Keqin wetland.

1 was heard near the school at the kilometre 8 turning to the Keqin wetland off the Qiqihar to Zhalong road on the 19/6/2013.

COMMON CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus* 大杜鹃

(3/3 14 37)

14 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. Six of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with another eight at the Keqin wetland.

10 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. Six of these were in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other four being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail.

13 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 19/6/2013. Four of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper, another five were at the Keqin wetland while four more were seen at numerous miscellaneous sites between these two main areas and Qiqihar city.

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua* 纵纹腹小鸮

(1/3 2 2)

2 separate birds were seen besides the main Qiqihar to Zhalong road on the 19/6/2013. They were both about three or four kilometres east of the turning off to Keqin.

[COMMON KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis* 普通翠鸟

1 bird, possibly this species, was heard at the Keqin wetland near Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 17/6/2013].

EURASIAN HOOPOE *Upupa epops* 戴胜

(1/3 1 1)

1 near the village of Bian Tun between Qiqihar city and Zhalong NNR on the 17/6/2013.

BROWN SHRIKE *Lanius cristatus* 红尾伯劳

(2/3 4 5)

4, two pairs, near the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.

1 near the start of the Long Hu boardwalk trail in Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.

EURASIAN MAGPIE *Pica pica* 喜鹊

(3/3 25 55)

14 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. Six of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with another eight at the Keqin wetland. 16 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. 10 of these were in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other six being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail. 25 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 19/6/2013. 10 of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper, another five were at the Keqin wetland while about 10 others were seen at numerous miscellaneous sites between these two main areas and Qiqihar city.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus* 秃鼻乌鸦

(2/3 35 70)

35 besides the main road between Zhalong NNR and the turning east to the Keqin wetland on the 17/6/2013.
35 at the Keqin wetland close to Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.

CHINESE PENDULINE TIT *Remiz consobrinus* 中华攀雀

(3/3 7 17)

5 singles in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. Four of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with the other at the Keqin wetland. 4 singles near the main tourist area at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. 7 singles in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. Three of these were around the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another four were at the Keqin wetland.

BEARDED REEDLING *Panurus biarmicus* 文须雀

(1/3 2 2)

2 males near the main tourist area at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.

EURASIAN SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis* 云雀

(2/3 15 25)

10 at the Keqin wetland near Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 17/6/2013.
15 at the Keqin wetland close to Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* 崖沙燕

(3/3 8 14)

1 at the Keqin wetland near Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 17/6/2013.
8 near the main tourist area at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.
5 from the Long Hu boardwalk trail in Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.

BARN SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* 家燕

(3/3 140 245)

Several birds were seen still nest building while others were observed already feeding young in the nest.

35 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. 20 of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper, another 10 were at the Keqin wetland while about six others were seen at numerous miscellaneous sites between these two main areas and Qiqihar city. About 10 birds were *tyleri*.
70, including over 10 *tyleri*, at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. 40 of these were in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other 30 being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail.
140 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. 60 of these were around the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve with another 80 at the Keqin wetland.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Cecropis daurica* 金腰燕

(3/3 210 330)

As with the previous species several birds were seen still nest building while others were observed already feeding young in the nest.

60 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. 30 of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with another 30 at the Keqin wetland. 60 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. 30 of these were in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other 30 being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail. 210 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 19/6/2013. 60 of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper, another 30 were at the Keqin wetland while about 120 were seen at numerous miscellaneous sites between these two main areas and Qiqihar city.

[DUSKY WARBLER *Phylloscopus fuscatus* 褐柳莺

1 silent bird, possibly this species, was glimpsed from the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013].

ORIENTAL REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus orientalis* 东方大苇莺

(3/3 20 49)

20 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. Five of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with the other 15 at the Keqin wetland. 20 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. 15 of these were in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other five being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail. 9 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. Four of these were around the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another five were at the Keqin wetland.

BLACK-BROWED REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps* 黑眉苇莺

(3/3 45 110)

35 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. 25 of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with another 10 at the Keqin wetland. 45 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. 25 of these were in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other 15 being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail. 30 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. 15 of these were around the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another 15 were at the Keqin wetland.

MANCHURIAN REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus tangorum* VU 远东苇莺

(3/3 3 7)



3 singing birds near the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. The first was in the reed bed to the left of the approach road in almost the last patch of tall reeds about 550 metres along the track from the main road in to the park and perhaps 400 metres before the 'Long Hu' hotel. That's site is about 25 metres before the first, smaller track off to the right. That bird was at 47°11.35'N., 124°12.92'E. & 152 metres while the other two were singing from the Long Hu boardwalk itself with the first of those being at 47°10.93'N., 124°12.89'E. The latter were about 250 & 300 metres from the red roofed shelter at the very end of the boardwalk.

2 separate singing birds at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. The first of these was right at the end of the boardwalk trail in the main tourist part of the reserve (47°12.51'N., 124°14.39'E. & 152 metres) with the other being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail.

2 singing males were seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail in Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. They were only about 50 metres apart.

THICK-BILLED WARBLER *Iduna aedon* 厚嘴苇莺

(1/3 1 1)

1 singing bird near the hotel at the start of the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.

[PALLAS'S GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella certhiola* 小蝗莺

1 bird, possibly this species, was heard near the start of the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013].

NORTHERN PARROTBILL *Paradoxornis polivanovi* 震旦鸦雀

(3/3 11 26)



11 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. 10 of these, including four recently fledged juveniles, were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with the other, an adult, at the Keqin wetland.

11 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. Nine of these (three separate single adults, two juveniles and a party of four juveniles) were seen at four separate sites in the main tourist part of the reserve with the other two adults, a pair, being seen from the Long Hu boardwalk trail.

4, two adults and later to recently fledged juveniles, from the Long Hu boardwalk trail in Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.

WHITE-CHEEKED STARLING *Spodiopsar cineraceus* 灰椋鸟

(3/3 6 10)

6, four singles and a pair, were seen near the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.

1 near the main tourist area at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.

4 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. Two, a pair, were near the start of the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while the other bird was at the Keqin wetland.

COMMON STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris* 紫翅椋鸟

(1/3 1 1)

1 with two White-cheeked Starlings, near the hotel at the start of the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* 麻雀

(3/3 80 135)

15 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. Five of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with another 10 at the Keqin wetland.

80 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. About 50 of these were in & around the main tourist complex inside the park while the other 30 were around the hotel at the start of the Long Hu boardwalk trail.

40 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. 20 were around the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another 20 were at the Keqin wetland.

EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla tschutschensis* 黄鹡鸰

(3/3 50 90)

35 in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. Five of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with another 30 at the Keqin wetland. 20 birds at the second site were seen well enough to racially assign - and they were all *macronyx*.

5 at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013. Four of these were in & around the main tourist complex inside the park while the other was around the hotel at the start of the Long Hu boardwalk trail.

50 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. Five of these were around the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while another 45 were at the Keqin wetland. 15 birds were seen well enough to racially assign and these were all *macronyx*.

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba* 白鹡鸰

(2/3 2 3)

1 adult male *leucopsis* near the hotel at the start of the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.

2 singles in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. The first, an adult male *leucopsis*, was besides the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while the other was at the Keqin wetland.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus richardi* 理氏鹨

(3/3 8 10)

1 singing bird at the Keqin wetland near Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 17/6/2013.

1 near the main tourist area at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.

8 singing birds near Keqin Hu close to Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.

[CHESTNUT-EARED BUNTING *Emberiza fucata* 栗耳鹨

1 bird, possibly this species, was glimpsed near the hotel at the start of the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013].

YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING *Emberiza aureola* VU 黄胸鹨

(3/3 3 8)

3 singing males besides the short approach road to the hotel near the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.

2 separate singing males near the main tourist area at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.

3 singing males near the start of the Long Hu boardwalk trail in Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013.

BLACK-FACED BUNTING *Emberiza spodocephala* 灰头鹀

(1/3 1 1)

1 near the hotel at the start of the Long Hu boardwalk trail, Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013.

JAPANESE REED BUNTING *Emberiza yessoensis* NT 红颈苇鹀

(3/3 9 13)

9 singing males in the Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar area on the 17/6/2013. Three of these were near Long Hu in the nature reserve proper with the other six at the Keqin wetland.

1 singing male near the main tourist area at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.

3 in & around Zhalong NNR, Qiqihar on the 19/6/2013. The first bird, a singing male, was near the start of the Long Hu boardwalk trail inside the reserve while the other two, an adult male and an attendant but almost fully grown fledgling, were at the Keqin wetland.

COMMON REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus* 芦鹀

(1/3 3 3)

3, a pair and a separate female, near the main tourist area at Zhalong NNR on the 18/6/2013.

Paul Holt Xi'an 24 June 2013