

# CHINA

## POYANG HU AND YANCHENG



Pied Falconet (China Birding)

**Saturday November 10th - Saturday November 24th 2012**

**Leader: Chris Bradshaw and local guides**

**Group size: 8**

**Birds: 170-200**

Birdwatching Breaks are pleased to offer you this new and exciting tour to China. Our main aim is to observe the amazing spectacle of birds that congregate at Poyang Hu, a huge seasonal wetland. Poyang Hu holds significant populations of globally-threatened birds notably Siberian and White-naped Cranes, Oriental Stork, Swan Goose and Lesser White-fronted Geese. Nearby, we visit a river complex for the rare Scaly-sided Merganser. Further south at Fuzhou, we take a short boat trip into an estuary for the endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper which is regularly seen here in the winter months. The finale of this fascinating tour is at Yancheng National Nature Reserve, a huge mix of grassland, lagoons, salt pans and reeds. At Yancheng we look for the scarce Chinese Grey Shrike and Reed and Vinous-throated Parrotbills

Chris Bradshaw has led numerous birding tours to Asia including China.

**Days 1-2:** Fly to Beijing where arrival is early on the following morning. We commence our tour with a visit to the Botanical Gardens in Beijing. The gardens often have wintering thrushes including Dusky, Red-throated and Black-throated. Other species present include Chinese Nuthatch, Chinese Grosbeak, Chinese Bulbul, Chinese Hill Warbler and Pere David's Laughingthrush. Higher elevations in the garden often attract wintering Siberian Accentor, Yellow-bellied Tit and Brambling. Night in Beijing

**Day 3:** After some morning birding in Beijing, we fly to Fuzhou in the south of China. On arrival, we transfer to Fuzhou National Park for a two-night stay.

**Day 4:** Today, we visit the Minjiang Estuary and the small island of Shanyutan. The habitat of inter-tidal mudflats is one of the most reliable sites in the world for Spoon-billed Sandpipers. Other scarce species using the area include Dalmatian Pelican, Black-faced Spoonbill, Saunders' Gull, Red-necked Stint and a range of shorebirds.

**Days 5-7:** We have an early morning flight to Nanchang where we transfer to the town of Yongxiu for a three-night stay. Poyang Hu is a massive area of



Chinese Merganser (China Birding Tours)

seasonal freshwater lakes, located south of the mighty Yangtze River and is an internationally important area for waterbirds. During our stay, we explore many parts of Poyang Hu which attracts almost the entire world populations of Siberian Crane and Oriental Stork. Other species of high interest which we should see include, Tundra and Whooper Swans, Black-faced and Eurasian Spoonbills,

Hooded and White-naped Cranes, Swan, Tundra and Taiga Bean, Greater and Lesser White-fronted Geese, the rare Baer's Pochard, Asian Yellow Rail, Pied Avocet, Spotted Redshank, Japanese Quail, Vinous-throated Parrotbill, Ochre-rumped and Pallas's Buntings. There are many small villages in the vicinity of Poyang Hu where we may find Red-billed Starling and Sooty-headed Bulbul. On our



Mandarin Duck (China Birding Tours)

travels within Poyang Hu we also hope to find Eastern Imperial Eagle, Brown Crake, Plain Prinia, Black-collared Starling, Crested Myna and Scaly-breasted Munia.

**Day 8:** A final morning at Poyang Hu before we travel to the small town of Wuyuan where we stay for three nights.

**Days 9-10:** These two days are spent birding in and around Wuyuan which has many habitats ranging from rivers with pebble islands to stands of forest, rice paddies and wooded gardens. Early on

Day 9 we head to an area which regularly has wintering Scaly-sided Mergansers, Mandarin Duck, Long-billed Plover, Grey-throated Sand Martin, East Siberian Wagtail (split by some authorities from White) and Meadow Bunting. A visit is also scheduled to an area for the attractive Pied Falconet. On Day 10 we concentrate our birding on the forests and scrub near Wuyuan. Careful searching may result in us finding Grey-chinned Minivet, Mountain, Black and Chestnut Bulbuls, Collared Finchbill, Hwamei, Grey-sided Scimitar Babbler, Black-throated Tit,

Japanese White-eye, Fork-tailed Sunbird and Tristram's Bunting.

**Day 11:** Final morning at Wuyuan before travelling east to Shanghai, one of the busiest and most prosperous cities of modern day China. We stay the night in Shanghai.

**Days 12-14:** Today we take the new expressway northwards to Yangcheng, a protected area in the form of a reserve covering reed-beds, lagoons, salt pans, grassland and riverine habitats. We have three days in which to explore this fascinating reserve which is a major wintering ground of Red-crowned Cranes. The coast is a magnet for gulls, especially the rare Saunders' Gull and, occasionally, Relict Gull. The 'commoner' gulls using Yangcheng include Vega, Mongolian, Black-tailed and the rarer Great Black-headed. The reeds are attractive to Reed Parrotbill and Chinese Penduline Tits, Pallas's, Common and Japanese Reed Buntings. Ducks are well represented on the pools and lagoons including the beautiful Baikal Teal, Falcated and Chinese Spot-billed Ducks. Other species we may encounter during our stay include Black-necked Grebe, Eurasian Bittern, Japanese Buzzard, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Kentish Plover, Common Greenshank, Green Sandpiper, Caspian Tern, Eurasian Hoopoe, Oriental Skylark, Buff-bellied Pipit, Red-flanked Bluetail, Chinese Blackbird, Long-tailed and Chinese Great Grey Shrikes, White-cheeked Starling, Lapland, Black-faced and Chestnut-eared Buntings.

**Day 15:** Return to Shanghai where we fly back to Europe with arrival on the following morning.

Ground Price: £2595

Single room: £250

\*Air Fare: £1000

Tour Price: £3595

Tour Price Beijing/Shanghai: £2595

Deposit: £350

\*please refer to our terms and conditions relating to flights on pages 5 and 71

This holiday is fully inclusive of international and internal flights, boat trips, accommodation and meals, transport, guidance and taxes.

**Not included:** drinks, insurance, and items of a personal nature, air passenger duty taxes, and excess baggage and fuel surcharges. Visa to enter China.

Good accommodation throughout with en-suite facilities. The guesthouses/hotels at Poyang Hu and Yangcheng are simple with facilities. Evening meals are typically Chinese

Transport by minibus. Walking on flat land and undulating trails in some areas. Warm, waterproof clothing and stout footwear is essential on this tour.