

# Henan & SE China Bird Tour Report

23rd Nov-5th Dec 2014

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Participants: Christer Andreas, Gustaf Georg



Cabot's Tragopan in Fujian © Summer Wong





Day 1(23rd Nov) Weather forecast said today will be a rainy day, we started in the early morning, no rain, but very foggy, when we had breakfast at the station place it's very quite then suddenly very noisy laughingthrushes came from a bamboo field, we got **Hwamei** and **Masked Laughingthrush** there, later a **White-crowned Forktail** showed on a dried stream. After breakfast we walked along the trail to look for Reeves's Pheasant, no sign, then we climbed up the mountain to look for it but in vain, so we headed back to the station place and tried another trail. There we saw **Mountain Bulbul**, **Chinese Grosbeak**, **Eurasian Jay**, **Rufous-bellied Woodpecker**, **Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker**, **Great-spotted Woodpecker**, **Yellow-bellied Tit**, **Streak-breasted Simit Babbler**, **Japanese Great Tit**, **Vinous-throated Parrotbill**, but no pheasant. Then we tried the first trail again and a branch road which seems to be a old road around 2-4 meters wide, there we got **Dusky Thrush**. Our final try was on the second trail but at around 3:30 pm, heavy rain started, we decided to turn back to the station at around 4:30 pm. No pheasant today.



**Rufous-bellied Woodpecker and Great-spotted Woodpecker © Summer Wong**

Day 2 (24th Nov) This morning we tried another place for **Reeves's Pheasant**, and finally we got it! 3 male together! They were on the grass under the pine trees, kind of open ground for us in this season, and feeding there for more than 40 minutes, we had great photos of it! A good morning, then we drove to Poyang lake which is nearly 600 kms away. On the road we got **Bull-headed Shrike**, **Brown Shrike**, **Daurian Redstart**, **Common Pheasant**, **Collared Crow**, **Rook**, **Green Sandpiper**, **Long-billed Plover**, **Common Kingfisher**, **Crested Kingfisher**, **Water Pipit**, **White-cheeked Starling**.

Around 4:20pm, we arrived at the lake, did a little bit birding before the light gone, we got **Spotted Redshank**, **Common Greenshank**, **Great-crested Grebe**, **Red-throated Pipit**, **Buff-bellied Pipit**, **Spot-billed Duck**, **Greater White-headed Goose**, **Tundra Swan**, **Common Snipe**, **Great Bittern**, **Eurasian Spoonbill**, **Oriental Stork**, **Black-necked Grebe**, **Great Crested Grebe**, **Little Grebe**, **Great Cormorant**, **Spot-billed Duck**, **Mallard**, **Greater White-fronted Goose**, **Tundra Bean Goose**, **Greylag Goose**.





**male Reeve's Pheasants in Dongzhai, Henan © Summer Wong**

Day 3 (25th Nov) cloudy . Birding in Wucheng. **235+Siberian Crane , 38+White-naped Crane , 245+Hooded Crane , 141+Common Crane , 320+Pied Avocet, 100+Northern Lapwing, Peregrine Falcon , Common Kestrel , Hen Harrier , Eurasian Teal , Northern Pintail , Common Pochard , Falcated Duck , Black-collared Starling, Pied Kingfisher, White-throated Kingfisher, Chinese Grosbeak, Meadow Bunting, Little Bunting, Yellow-throated Bunting, Black-faced Bunting, Hwamei, Dusky Thrush, the total species of today is 72.**





**Siberian Crane in Poyang Lake © Summer Wong**



**Siberian Crane © Summer Wong**



**Common Crane © Summer Wong**

Day 4 (26th Nov) Morning birding in Wucheng, out of that small town got **White-rumped Munia** and **Scaly-breasted Munia** together, then focused on 2 species: **Japanese Quail** which we got it by searching



in line on the grass, **Brown Crane** got one on a little road side pond, another one in the man-made water gap on the road side. After lunch drove to Nanjishan for **Marsh Grassbird** got it on a reed field, tried to photograph but it's always hiding under inside the grass, no good photo in the end, on the same place also got **Plain Prinia**, **Zitting Cisticola**, Long-tailed Shrike in black form. Birds we got today is 84 species in total.



**Zitting Cisticola and Long-tailed Shrike in black form © Summer Wong**

Day 5 (27th Nov) cloudy. Morning birding in Nanjishan, then drive to Emeifeng, today we got **Black-shouldered Kite**, **Chinese Penduline Tit**, **Rustic Bunting**, **Chestnut-eared Bunting**, **Yellow-throated Bunting**, **Brambling**, total species of today is 73.

Day 6 (28th Nov) Sunny. Start in the early morning, got a male **Koklass Pheasant** on the road side, we were looking for the Elliot's Pheasant in the bamboo area, but the first time drive up didn't get it, so we drove down to try again, no seen either on the way down, then we drove up again and finally got it nearly at the end of the bamboo area. Andreas spotted a nice male **Elliot's Pheasant** around 10 meters away from us in the grass off the road, but it noticed us and ran away up to the bamboo forest immediately, Andreas and I got good view by bins but no time to take photo of it. Gustaf didn't have a good view of it, so we need to get it again. On the way up we got **Silver Pheasant** on the slope, for the rest of the trip we got many of them, quite common there, hard to miss them.

On the way up we tried for the tragopan, but didn't see it. Then we tried the trail which is on the top of the mountain to look for White-necked Partridge, there we got Streak-breasted Scimitar barbler, **Indochinese Yuhina (Striated Yuhina)**, **White-bellied Erpornis (Yuhina)**, Grey-cheeked Fulvetta, but no partridge, didn't even hear it. Near lunch time we decided to have a last try for the tragopan before lunch. We walked along the road on the up area of the mountain, I noticed some walking noise from the slope above us, this reminded my experience in Hainan when we got Hainan Partridge in January this year, we heard the partridge walking noise first then we got the bird! So I was thinking it could be the noise of the Tragopan walking on the dried leaves, meanwhile Andreas and Gustaf ignored this and walked down, I walked back a little bit to look into the trees and got a male **Cabot's Tragopan** walking there! Then we started our lucky day with the tragopan, we got at least 7 tragopans at that spot, they were even calling. In the rest of the day Gustaf



got 2 tragopans calling to each other in the up area after lunch, and in the late afternoon we saw the tragopans on the same spot again.

Other birds of the day: **Chinese Bamboo Partridge**, **Collared Owlet**, **Speckled Piculet**, **Bay Woodpecker**, **Great Barbet**, **Grey Treepie**, **Yellow-cheeked Tit**, **Greater-necklaced Laughingthrush**, **Chestnut Bulbul**, **Rufous-faced Warbler**, **Asian Stubtail**, **Rufous-capped Babbler**, **Huet's Fulvetta**(Grey-cheeked Fulvetta), **Japanese White-eye**, **White's Thrush**, **Stejneger's Stonechat** (Common Stonechat), **Fork-tailed Sunbird**, **Tristram's Bunting**



male and female Cabot's Tragopan © Summer Wong



Sultan Tit © Summer Wong



fe. Himalayan Bluetail © Summer Wong

Day 7 (29th Nov) Sunny in the morning, then raining in the rest of the day. Started earlier than yesterday to try for the Partridge in the up area, foggy there when we arrived, and heard the call of the partridge 2



times there from far distance. Then we spent the rest of the day for Elliot's Pheasant, but in vain. Got good view and photos of the **female Tragopan**, and a male one flew straight down from the trees toward the bottom of the mountain, as quickly as an arrow! Many Silver Pheasants on the slopes, walking and feeding under the trees, never close to the road side and always blocked by branches so didn't have good photo. Other birds we got are **Sultan Tit, Pale Thrush, Striated Yuhina, Orange-bellied Leafbird, Grey-chinned Minivet, Crested Serpent Eagle, Mountain Hawk Eagle, Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Black-throated Tit**, Indochinese Yuhina (Striated Yuhina).

Day 8 (30th Nov) Plan for today is driving to Wuyuan, birding on the road from Emeifeng to Lichuan, just left our hostel around 1 km, on the road near to the rice field, we got **Slaty-backed Forktail** and **Brown Dipper** in the river of the road side. Then we walked on a little trail leading to a bamboo forest, got **Red-headed Trogon** flew by, on the trail we got Huamei, flocks of **Huet's Fulvetta**(Grey-cheeked Fulvetta), **Dusky Fulvetta, Collared Finchbill**, Grey-chinned Minivet, Plain Prinia, Black-throated Tit, Slaty-backed Forktail, **Plumbeous Water Redstart, Grey Wagtail** and a glimpse of a **Moustached Laughingthrush**. On an ancient wood bridge we got Slaty-backed Forktail and White-crowned Forktail, then we headed to Wuyuan by crossing the mountain border of Fujian and Jiangxi, on the Fujian mountain side where we did birding it was sunny and bright, after crossing the border to the Jiangxi side of the mountain it was heavy fog there, in the middle of the mountain full of bamboo forest but too foggy to do birding. The road of the mountain is also totally different between the two sides, on the Fujian side it is concrete marked good road, on the Jiangxi side it's just mud road, fortunately we had a Toyota Highlander SUV, no problem for us to drive on such road, and on the way down, the villages along the road were abandoned, falling roofs, broken windows, kind of scaring. The difference between the two sides of the mountain, I think probably it's a result of the economy condition of Fujian province and Jiangxi province, Fujian is richer than Jiangxi. Had lunch in Lichuan, around dinner time we arrived at Wuyuan.



**Hwamei © Summer Wong**



**Slaty-backed Forktail © Summer Wong**

Day 9 (1st Dec) Early in the morning we went to the river where the **Scaly-sided Merganser** located, and we got 15 of them there! And on the river shore we got **Yellow-browed Bunting**, Black-faced Bunting, Little Bunting, White-rumped Munia, Scaly-breasted Munia and Masked Laughingthrush. Around lunch time we headed to the village where is famous for the **Pied Falconet**, when we arrived there lots of Chinese bird



photographers are waiting for hours for the falconet on the roofs. After lunch we joined them, everybody knows the falconet will show eventually because they have nested there, just need to wait. Got **Black Eagle, Besra**. After hours waiting, Gustaf spotted a Pied Falconet landed on a high branch! Half hour later another one joined it landed together! Had great chat with Chinese bird photographers and they were excited to see foreign birders, and asked for group pictures! Funny and nice day!



**Scaly-sided Merganser © Summer Wong**



**Pied Falconet © Summer Wong**

Day 10 (2nd Dec) This day Andreas suggested to go to some mountain trails where no birders had been to before. So we went to bamboo forest early in the morning to look for Elliot's Pheasant for Gustaf as he wanted to have a better view of it, but turned out no Elliot's Pheasant there. On a tiny lake we got **Western Osprey, Little Ringed Plover, Kentish Plover**, Long-billed Plover, Common Snipe, Common Green-shank. Then we head to another little trail, Gustaf went far in front Andreas and me, so he got a group of Silver Pheasants, at least 10, the altitude there is around 100 meters, such low area! On the trail we got Striated Yuhina, a few groups of Greater-necklaced Laughingthrushes, and in one group we got 2-3 **Lesser-necklaced Laughingthrushes** mixed in. Back to the rice field end we got Yellow-bellied Bunting, Black-faced Bunting, Plain Prinia.

In the afternoon we went to a trail to look for Short-tailed Parrotbill but in vain, instead we got **Moustached Laughingthrush**, it's calling and very good view! Got good photos! Andreas and Gustaf were very excited as this bird is unexpected and a very hard bird! Today got 12+Scaly-sided Merganser.

Day 11 (3rd Dec) This morning, Gustaf still wanted to try for the Elliot's Pheasant first, so we went to a different trail where no birder had been to before, there we heard **Spotted Wren Babbler**, got Silver Pheasant again, and Grey Treepie, Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler, **Orange-bellied Leafbird**, Chestnut Bulbul, **Spot-breasted Scimitar Babbler**, Striated Yuhina.

In the afternoon after lunch it started to rain, our plan was to look for Short-tailed Parrotbill, seemed like not lucky for us at the beginning in such weather condition, but when we just arrived the place at the first part of the trail we got a flock of small birds with Grey-cheeked Fulvetta, Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler, **Green Shrike Babber**, and a single **Short-tailed Parrotbill**! So lucky we were! Can't complain the weather anymore. As the rain seemed like not going to stop and no more chance for the parrotbill again, we decided to look for it tomorrow morning, and spend the rest of the day to the Blue-crowned Laughingthrush, even



though we knew that this season not good for it, we still wanted to have a try. We went through the tea plantation in rain, get totally wet and no sight of the laughingthrush, got **Asian Barred Owlet** instead.



**Moustached Laughingthrush and Spot-breasted Scimitar Babbler © Summer Wong**

Day 12 (4th Dec) Before we headed to Nanchang Airport, we went to the parrotbill place to have a last try for it, and hoping will get good photo of it, and it turned out we were blessed, we got the **Short-tailed Parrotbill** again and got photos of it! Then we headed to Nanchang, the express way was blocked because of heavy fog, we stuck up on the entrance of the express way for half hour, thank god, not too long. And got 7 Scaly-sided Merganser, 10 Little Grebe on the river. On the way when we passed by Poyang lake, from the car we got **Black Stork**, Siberian Crane, Common Crane, Pied Avocet, Green Sandpiper, Black-headed Gull, Northern Lapwing, Grey Heron, Great Egret. Andreas and Gustaf took airplane to Shanghai, driver and I drove back to Sichuan.





### Short-tailed Parrotbill and Green Shrike Babbler © Summer Wong

Day 13 (5th Dec) With help of local bird guide in Shanghai Andreas and Gustaf got **White-breasted Waterhen, Common Sandpiper, Vega Gull , Heuglin's Gull , Yellow Wagtail , Reed Parrotbill.**

PS: on Day 10 and 11, we went to some trails where no birders had been to, even in winter time when we were there, we still heard a lot of bird callings, espacially the laughingthrushes, in spring I believe those must be very good places for birding!

We actually started on 22nd Nov by picking up Andreas and Gustaf ( They fly from Finland to Chongqing then fly to Wuhan ) from Wuhan Airport in late afternoon then headed to Dongzhai, overnight in Dongzhai.

### More photos from this Henan & SE China tour:



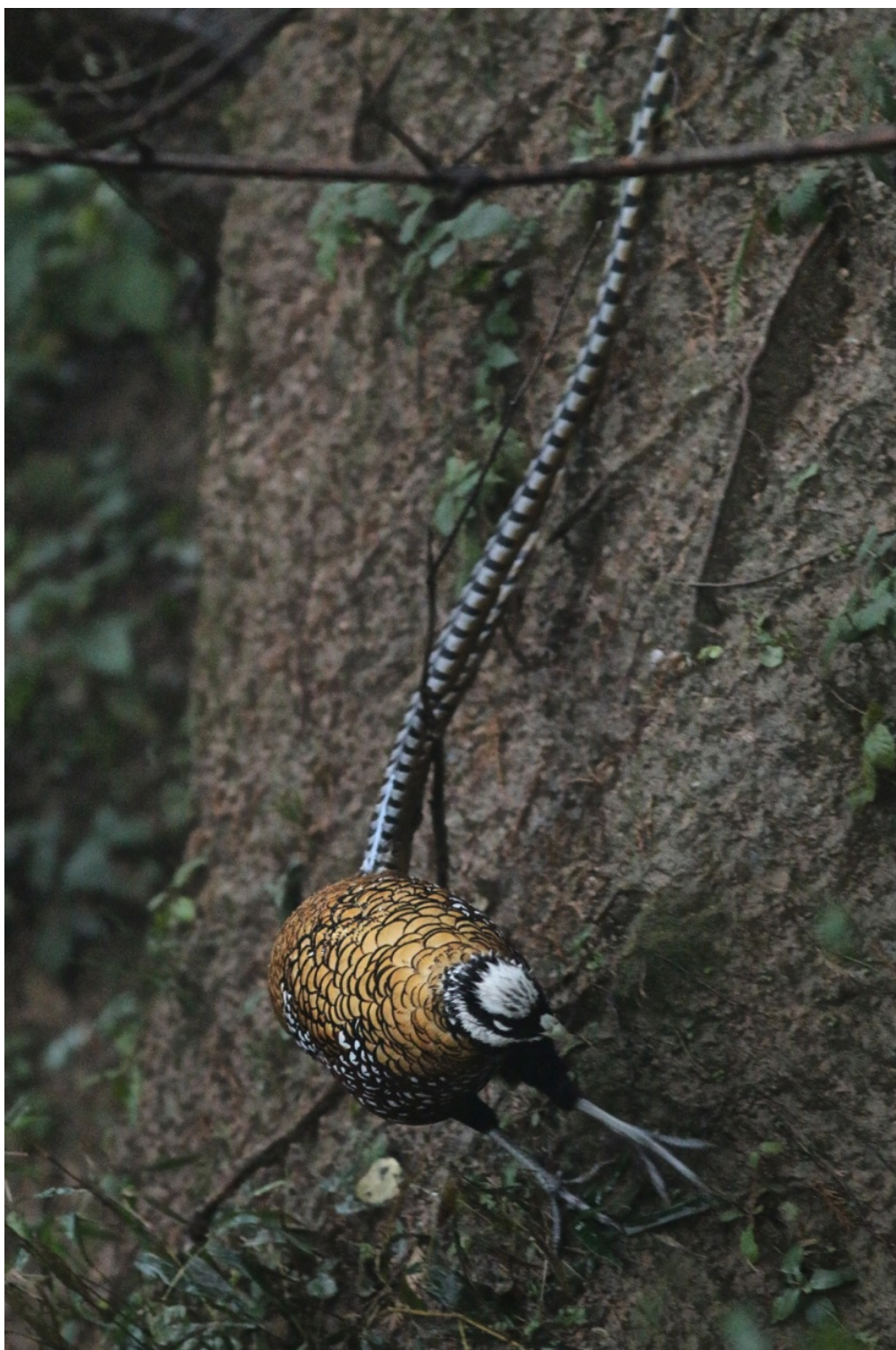












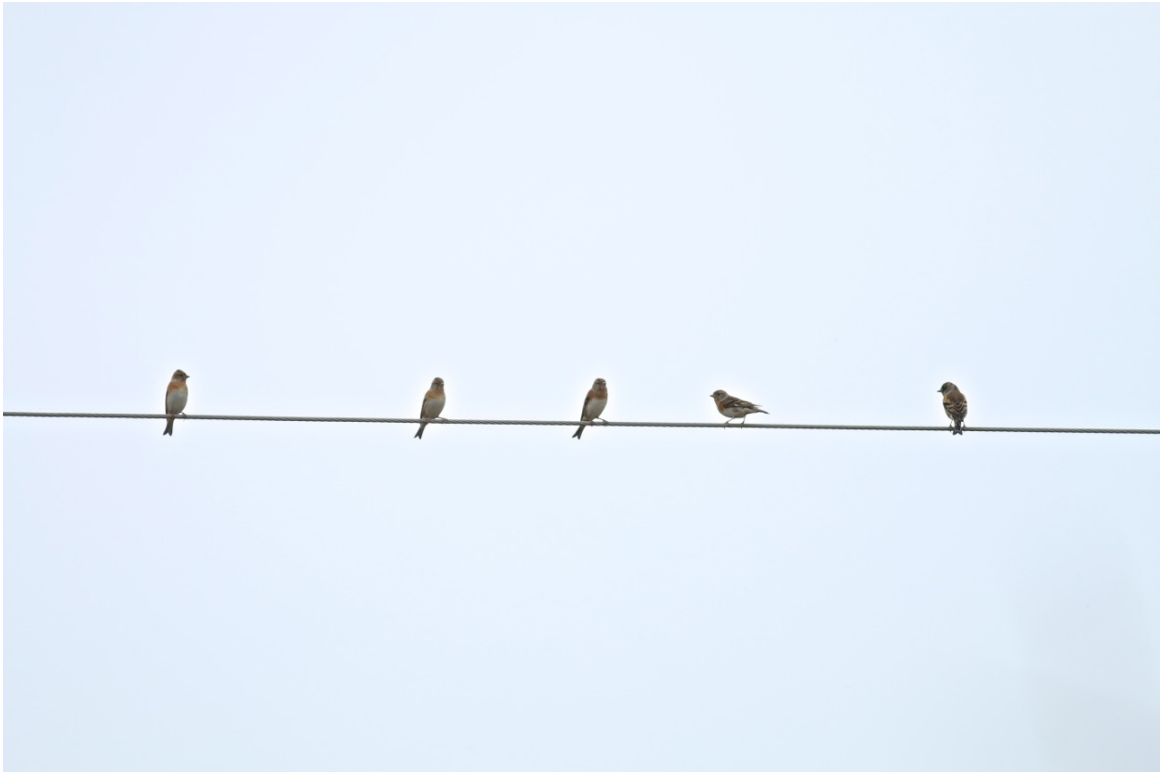
Reeve's Pheasants © Summer Wong





**Spotted Redshank and fe. Yellow-throated Bungting © Summer Wong**

**Carrion Crow on the field from Henan to Jiangxi © Summer Wong**



**Brambling and Red-billed Starling © Summer Wong**





**Dusky Thrush and Common Buzzard © Summer Wong**

**Scaly-breasted Munia and Yellow-browed Bunting © Summer Wong**





White-rumped Munia © Summer Wong





White-rumped Munia © Summer Wong





Moustached Laughingthrush in Wuyuan © Summer Wong





Moustached Laughingthrush in Wuyuan © Summer Wong





**Greater-necklaced Laughingthrush © Summer Wong**  
**Himalayan Bluetail and Orange-bellied Leafbird © Summer Wong**





**flying male Cabot's Tragopan and Collared Finchbill © Summer Wong**  
**Long-tailed Shrike and Striated Yuhina © Summer Wong**





Short-tailed Parrotbill in Wuyuan, Jiangxi © Summer Wong









chatting with birders from Netherland



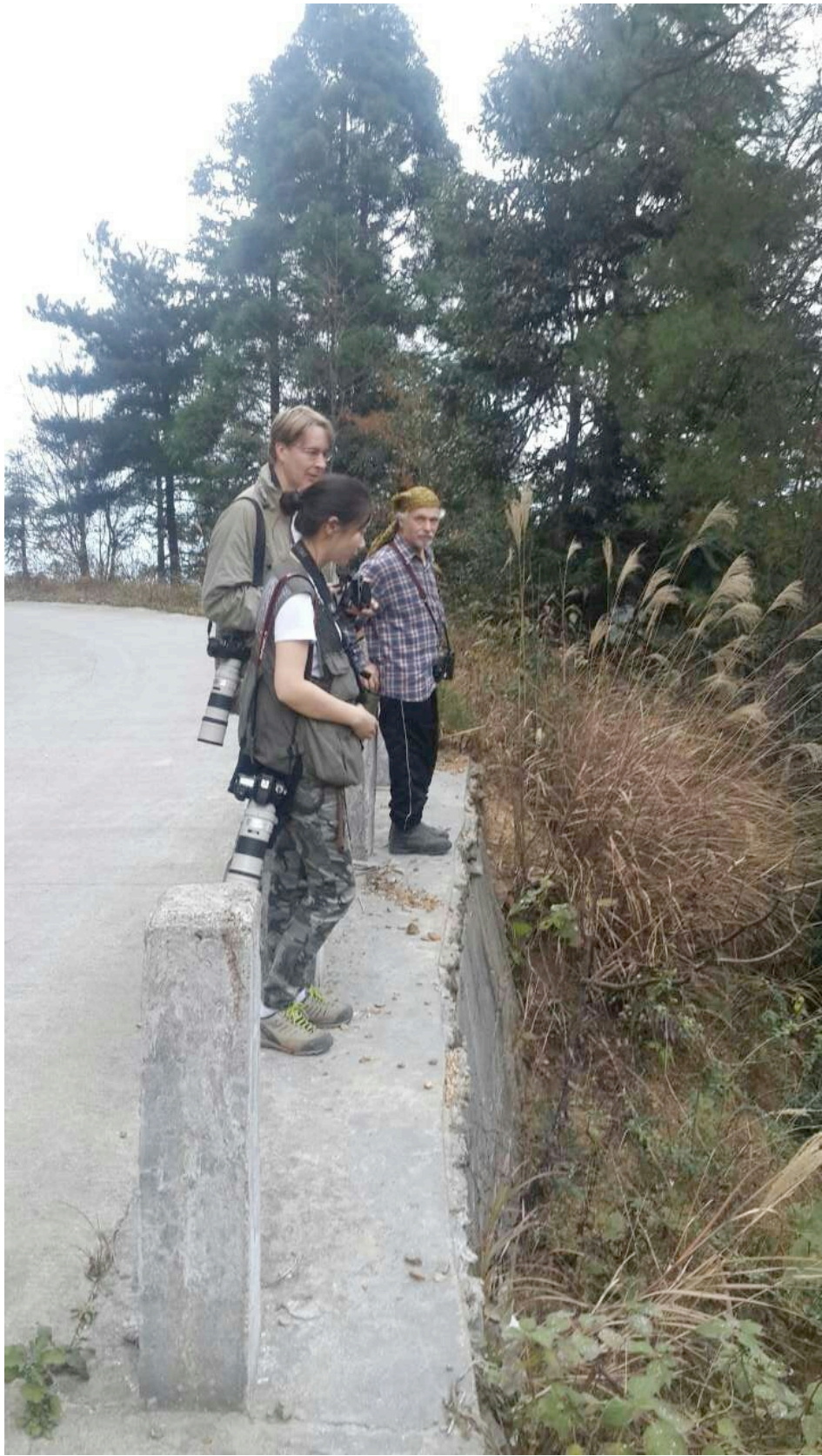
with Chinese bird photographers in Wuyuan





Barbecue night in Emeifeng, Fujian



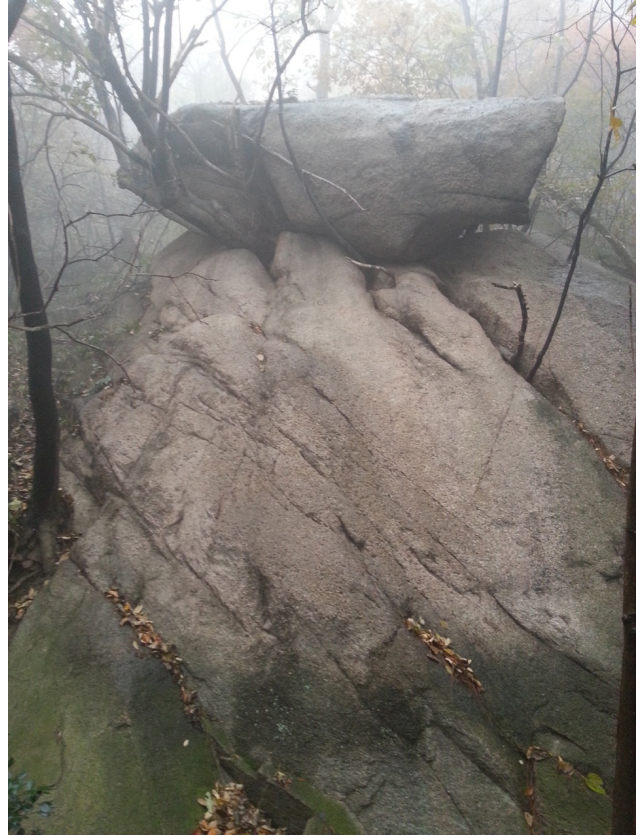






Summer is cooking eggs





Dongzhai, Henan, foggy and raining for a whole day





After helping the car to get out of the mud in Poyang Lake, better not to drive in the mud  
Birding in Poyang Lake





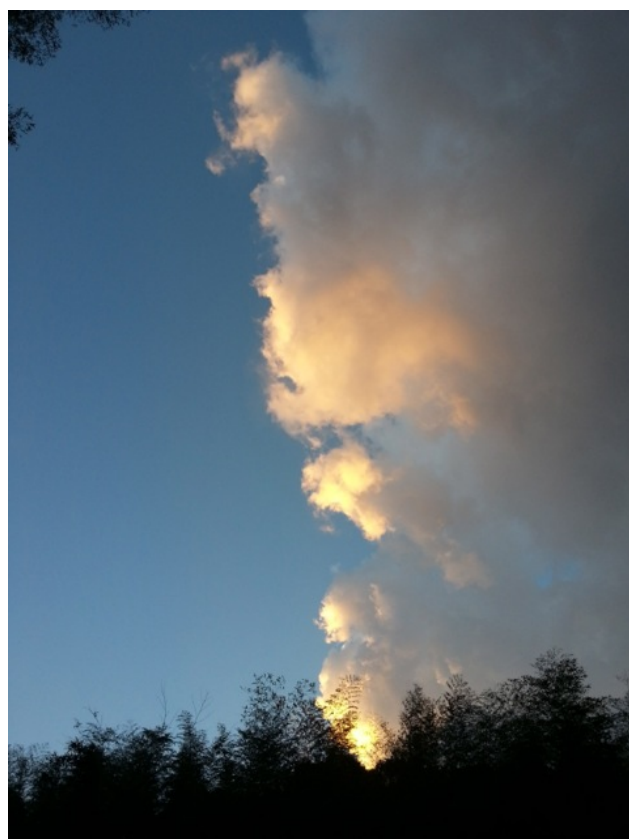
Emeifeng, Fujian





Emeifeng, Fujian





Emeifeng, Fujian





Buying fresh & wild fish from a local old man, then cooked fish in a local restaurant





The wild-fish meal in Wuyuan





Dinner in Wuyuan with a giant picture of former Chairman Jiangzemin out of the window





Dinner in Wuyuan





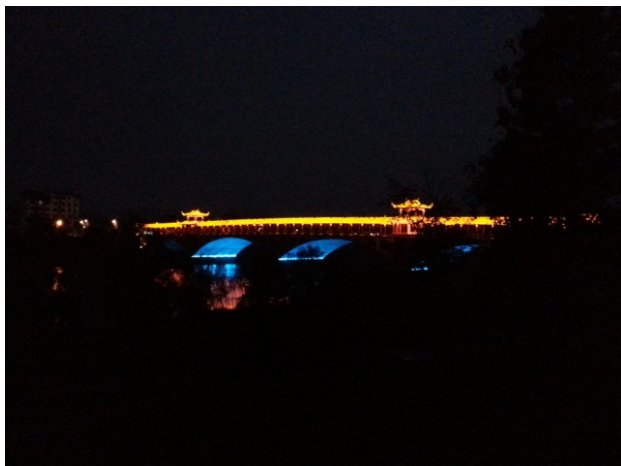
After hotpot dinner go to have a full body massage, Wuyuan





Trails no other birds have been to, Wuyuan







( up ) an interesting and delicious dinner near a lightened ancient bridge in Wuyuan



Summer made sandwich