

**A complete checklist
of species and subspecies
of the Chinese birds**

Edited by Cheng Tso - Hsin

**中国鸟类种和亚种
分类名录大全**

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Science Press, Beijing, China

内 容 简 介

本书5年前初版时按鸟类分类系统全面地整理并列出国鸟类21目81科1,244种和944亚种,这次增订为21目83科1,253种948亚种(英文简介和序言中仍用初版时的统计数据)。与第一部中国鸟类名录(1863年)包括的454种相比较,种数增加了近三倍之多,这是目前包括我国鸟类种数最全的书。每个种名列有中文名、拉丁名和英文名,书末有三种名称的索引,在正文中种名前还分别用不同的符号标出重点保护鸟类、濒危或易危种类、偶见种及迷鸟等,是一部内容丰富、科学性强、简明适用的工具书。可供鸟类学研究人员、大专院校有关专业师生、环保、外贸、农林牧等部门的科技工作者及鸟类爱好者参考。

A Complete Checklist of
Species and Subspecies of the
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中国鸟类种和亚种分类名录大全

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RESUME

This checklist consists of 1,244 species with 944 subspecies in addition, belonging to 81 families and 21 orders. The total number of bird species occupies 13.5% of the world's total.

Comparing with the number of species (454) recorded in the first checklist of the Chinese birds published by R. Swinhoe in 1863, our list of 1,244 species shows an increase of nearly 3 times.

In comparison with the number of bird species included in the "Synopsis of the avifauna of China" (Cheng, 1987), there is a spectacular increase of more than 50 species.

Further avifaunal survey is still needed in the western part of China, especially the regions situated along the boundaries of our country as well as in the vast sea areas of China. We hope that this checklist will prove to be not only a help, but an incentive as well, to a more thorough exploration of the birds throughout China.

Key Protected Species of the Chinese birds, endangered (or vulnerable) species as well as stragglers and accidentals are indicated with different symbols in this checklist.

PREFACE OF THE REVISED EDITION

On the anniversary of Academician Cheng Tso-hsin passing away, his book, *A Complete Checklist of Species and Subspecies of the Chinese Birds* will be reprinted by the Science Press of Beijing. It is the behest of Prof. Cheng to revise this book which I believe it is also the best way for us to commemorate Prof. Cheng and to carry out his last wishes.

A Complete Checklist of Species and Subspecies of the Chinese Birds was first published five years ago. As it included all the names of birds found in China, the book has been of great practical value and welcomed by a lot of researchers. The first printing sold out very quickly. Following the thorough development of ornithological studies in China, Prof. Cheng had not only supplied additional materials but also made revisions of the text of his book. In the revised edition, he added two families, nine species and ten subspecies of Chinese birds. He also revised and deleted one species and 7 subspecies from the list. In addition, he gave the Chinese names for all subspecies of Chinese birds, which increased the scientific value of this book.

Prof Cheng had finished most parts of the revised edition by himself. After he passed away in 1998, I continued to work on this book. I arranged the posthumous manuscript systematically. With the assistance from Prof. Cheng's students, Associate Prof. Xu Yangong, Dr. Zhang Zhengwang and Dr. Ding Changqing, I can finish this book and offer it sincerely to all the ornithological researchers in China and internationally.

The China Wildlife Conservation Association once again provided all the necessary funding for reprinting this book. Cherishing a feeling of great reverence for Prof. Cheng. The Association has been delighted to support this work. The revised edition of *A Complete Checklist of Species and Subspecies of the Chinese Birds* will console the soul of Prof. Cheng in Heaven. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all friends who had help us in republishing this book.

Cheng Chen Jia-jian

June 27, 1999

增订版序言

在郑作新院士离开我们一年之际,《中国鸟类种及亚种名录大全》一书就要再版发行了。这是郑老的遗愿,也是我们纪念郑老,继承郑老遗志的最好方式。

《中国鸟类种及亚种分类名录大全》一书是在五年前出版的。由于该书收集了中国分布的所有鸟的名称,有很大的实用价值,所以很快就售罄了。随着我国鸟类研究的深入和发展,郑老生前对该书做了认真的补充和修订,除了增加 2 科 9 种另 10 亚种的新分布记录外,还订正删除了 1 种另 7 亚种,并标注了所有亚种的中文名称,更增添了本书的科学价值。郑老仙逝后,在学生徐延恭、丁长青副研究员和张正旺教授的协助下,我将郑老的遗稿做了系统的整理,并真诚地将它奉献给国内外广大鸟类学工作者。

中国野生动物保护协会怀着对郑老的崇敬之情,经常支持郑老的工作,在本书出版的过程中,全额予以资助,告慰了郑老在天之灵。谨在此表示最诚挚的谢意。

郑陈嘉坚

1999年6月27日

FOREWORD

China is proud of her venerable history of civilization, and is also renowned for her rich avian resources. Since ancient times, our Chinese people have nourished a traditional love and fascination for our avian fauna, as shown in the numerous writings of all sorts throughout a number of dynasties. Birds enumerated in all the classical works were compiled toward the end of the Ming dynasty in 《本草纲目》"Compendium of Chinese Materia Medica" (1596) by 李时珍 (Li Shizhen), recording 77 species, and also in 《三才图会》"Three-Talents Pictorial Serial Books" by 王圻父子 (Wang Qi, Sr. & Jr.), listing 113 species, each with an illustration. Both outstanding works comprised quite a number of alternative names, some of which are surely reliable to refer to different species. Despite of the shortcomings and errors in their contents, these two contributions have generally been considered as having reached a high level of scholastic attainment in the Chinese ancient ornithology.

In modern China, the first list of birds known from China (including Taiwan) was written by R. Swinhoe in 1863, consisting of 454 species, and a revised list by the same author increased the number of Chinese birds to 675. In 1875, A. David and E. M. Quatalet published "Les oiseaux de China", recording 807 species. During the 1920s, N. G. Gee, L. I. Mofiett, and G. D. Wilder had a large-scaled compilation of birds recorded in China and published in 1926—1927 "A tentative list of Chinese birds", which was followed by a revised list by Gee (1931), consisting of 1,095 species and 575 subspecies, totalling 1,668 forms. In Gee's list, at least 200 forms (including both species and subspecies) should be deleted owing to the following reasons: (1) Birds listed have not been found within the territory of China at that time; and (2) An even greater number of the birds listed have been found to be mere synonyms, as Gee did not apparently have the facilities of checking over the synonymy of all the forms recorded.

The first checklist of the Chinese birds prepared by the Chinese was published in 1947 by the author of this treatise in the "Transactions of the Chinese Association for the Advancement of Sciences." In this paper, there were present-

ed 1,087 species and 912 subspecies, totalling 1,999, which was considered as most complete for China at the time of publication of the said paper.

Table 1 Showing the increase in the number of species and subspecies of the Chinese birds (1955—1987)

Titles of publications	Year	Number of species	Number of subspecies	Total
Distributional list of Chinese birds (1st edition)	1955—1958	1,099	802	1,901
Distributional list of Chinese birds (2nd edition)	1976	1,166	909	2,075
A synopsis of the avifauna of China (in English)	1987	1,186	953	2,139

After the founding of the New China, I and my assistants have been for more than forty years undertaking quite a number of explorations to the various quarters of China, accumulating a collection of more than 60,000 specimens. At the same time, I have been given opportunities of visiting the natural history museums and research institutions in Russia, Germany, France, England, and U. S. A. for examining collections of the Chinese birds, especially the type specimens together with the relevant literature. Results of our field work and taxonomic studies may be shown in Tab. 1.

During recent years, much avifaunal work has been carried out in all China, especially in Sichuan, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Xizang (Tibet) Autonomous Region, Taiwan, and in the eastern and southern sea areas. New records of birds in China as well as new species and subspecies of the Chinese birds have been springing up like bamboo shoots after a spring rain. It is considered appropriate to compile an updated checklist of the Chinese birds so as to provide a baseline reference to systematics and bird-watching for both professional ornithologists and the amateur.

This list does not include sight records as yet without verification and forms the occurrence of which in China require confirmation. Needless to say, it does not deal with cage birds and escapees.

The system of classification adopted in this book may be shown in the following tables, with the number of species and subspecies indicated for all the different orders and families.

Table 2 Non-Passeriformes: Number of species and subspecies

Orders & Families	Number of species	Number of subspecies	Number of species and subspecies
(I) 潜鸟目 Gaviiformes			
1. 潜鸟科 Gaviidae	4	—	4
(II) 鸕鹚目 Podicipediformes			
2. 鸕鹚科 Podicipedidae	5	2	7
(III) 鹱形目 Procellariiformes			
3. 信天翁科 Diomedidae	2	—	2
4. 鹱科 Procellariidae	8	—	8
5. 海燕科 Hydrobatidae	2	—	2
(IV) 鹈形目 Pelecaniformes			
6. 鸬科 Phaethontidae	3	—	3
7. 鹈鹕科 Pelecanidae	2	1	3
8. 鲣鸟科 Sulidae	2	—	2
9. 鸬鹚科 Phalacrocoracidae	5	—	5
10. 军舰鸟科 Fregatidae	3	—	3
(V) 鸮形目 Ciconiiformes			
11. 鹭科 Ardeidae	20	4	24
12. 鸮科 Ciconiidae	5	—	5
13. 鸮科 Threskiornithidae	6	—	6
14. 红鸮科 Phoenicopteridae	1	—	1
(VI) 雁形目 Anseriformes			
15. 鸭科 Anatidae	47	6	53
(VII) 隼形目 Falconiformes			
16. 鹰科 Accipitridae	47	23	70
17. 隼科 Falconidae	12	8	20

Table 2 (cont'd)

Orders & Families	Number of species	Number of subspecies	Number of species and subspecies
(VI) 鸡形目 Galliformes			
18. 松鸡科 Tetraonidae	8	4	12
19. 雉科 Phasianidae	53	75	128
(X) 鹤形目 Gruiformes			
20. 三趾鹑科 Turnicidae	3	2	5
21. 鹤科 Gruidae	9	—	9
22. 秧鸡科 Rallidae	18	6	24
23. 鸨科 Otidae	3	1	4
(X) 鸻形目 Charadriiformes			
24. 雉鸻科 Jacanidae	2	—	2
25. 彩鹬科 Rostratulidae	1	—	1
26. 蛎鹬科 Haematopodidae	1	—	1
27. 鸻科 Charadriidae	15	7	22
28. 鹬科 Scolopacidae	45	4	49
29. 反嘴鹬科 Recurvirostridae	3	—	3
30. 瓣蹼鹬科 Phalaropodidae	2	—	2
31. 石鸻科 Burhinidae	2	—	2
32. 燕鸻科 Glareolidae	3	—	3
(X) 鸥形目 Lariformes			
33. 贼鸥科 Stercorariidae	4	—	4
34. 鸥科 Laridae	34	6(? 1)	40(? 1)
35. 剪嘴鸥科 Rynchopidae	1	—	1
36. 海雀科 Alcidae	4	—	4
(X I) 鸽形目 Columbiformes			

Table 2 (cont'd)

Orders & Families	Number of species	Number of subspecies	Number of species and subspecies
37. 沙鸡科 Pteroclididae	3	—	3
38. 鸠鸽科 Columbidae	31	18(? 2)	49(? 2)
(XII) 鸚形目 Psittaciformes			
39. 鸚鵡科 Psittacidae	6	—	6
(XIV) 鵲形目 Cuculiformes			
40. 杜鵑科 Cuculidae	17	7	24
(XV) 鴞形目 Strigiformes			
41. 草鴞科 Tytonidae	3	2	5
42. 鵞鴞科 Strigidae	26	33	59
(XVI) 夜鷹目 Caprimulgiformes			
43. 蟆口鸞科 Podargidae	1	—	1
44. 夜鷹科 Caprimulgidae	6(? 1)	5	11(? 1)
(XVII) 雨燕目 Apodiformes			
45. 雨燕科 Apodidae	9	5	14
46. 凤头雨燕科 Hemiprocidae	1	—	1
(XVIII) 咬鵒目 Trogoniformes			
47. 咬鵒科 Trogonidae	3	5	8
(XIX) 佛法僧目 Coraciiformes			
48. 翠鸟科 Alcedinidae	11	5	16
49. 蜂虎科 Meropidae	6	1	7
50. 佛法僧科 Coraciidae	3	—	3
51. 戴胜科 Upupidae	1	1	2

Table 2 (cont'd)

Orders & Families	Number of species	Number of subspecies	Number of species and subspecies
52. 犀鸟科 Bucerotidae	5	—	5
(XX) 鴿形目 Piciformes			
53. 须鴿科 Capitonidae	8	6	14
54. 响蜜鴿科 Indicatoridae	1	—	1
55. 啄木鸟科 Picidae	29	58	87
Total (Non-Passeriformes)	555(? 1)	295(? 4)	850(? 5)

Table 3 Passeriformes: Number of species and subspecies

Orders & Families	Number of species	Number of subspecies	Number of species and subspecies
(X X I) 雀形目 Passeriformes			
56. 阔嘴鸟科 Eurylaimidae	2	1	3
57. 八色鸫科 Pittidae	8	2	10
58. 百灵科 Alaudidae	14	27	41
59. 燕科 Hirundinidae	11	15	26
60. 鹁鸽科 Motacillidae	18	23	41
61. 山椒鸟科 Campephagidae	11	13	24
62. 鹎科 Pycnonotidae	21	24	45
63. 和平鸟科 Irenidae	6	2	8
64. 太平鸟科 Bombycillidae	2	—	2
65. 伯劳科 Laniidae	10	17	27
66. 黄鹌科 Oriolidae	5	4	9
67. 卷尾科 Dicruridae	7	8	15
68. 椋鸟科 Sturnidae	18	5	23

Orders & Families	Number of species	Number of subspecies	Number of species and subspecies
69. 燕鵙科 Artamidae	1	—	1
70. 鴉科 Corvidae	30	37	67
71. 河烏科 Cinclidae	2	3	5
72. 鸛鵒科 Troglodytidae	1	6	7
73. 岩鸚科 Prunellidae	9	9	18
74. 鶇科 Muscicapidae	357	296(? 2)	653(? 2)
1) 鶇亞科 Turdinae	87	45(? 2)	132(? 2)
2) 畫眉亞科 Timaliinae	135	168	303
3) 鸞亞科 Sylviinae	95	65	160
4) 鶇亞科 Muscicapinae	40	18	58
75. 山雀科 Paridae	21	35	56
76. 鶇科 Sittidae	11	6	17
77. 旋木雀科 Certhiidae	4	5	9
78. 攀雀科 Remizidae	2	3	5
79. 啄花鳥科 Dicaeidae	5(? 1)	4	9(? 1)
80. 太陽鳥科 Nectariniidae	12	8	20
81. 綉眼鳥科 Zosteropidae	3	3	6
82. 文鳥科 Ploceidae	19	24	43
83. 雀科 Fringillidae	87	73	160
Total (Passeriformes)	698(? 1)	653(? 2)	1,351(? 3)

**Table 4 Total number of the species
and subspecies of the Chinese birds**

Orders	Number of species	Number of subspecies	Number of species and subspecies
Non-Passeriformes	555(? 1)	295(? 4)	850(? 5)
Passeriformes	698(? 1)	650(? 2)	1,348(? 3)
Grand total	1,253(? 2)	945(? 6)	2,198(? 8)

From the data listed above, one may readily see that there is a spectacular increase of **more than 50 species** in comparison with the statistical summary published previously (Cheng, 1987). This is essentially due to: (1) Discovery of more bird species in China, and (2) Elevation of the taxonomic status of a number of birds from subspecies to the species level upon the general recognition of ornithologists at present.

Howard and Moore (1991) have made an estimate that there are now more than 9,200 species of birds in the world. Hence the number of the Chinese bird species (1,244) occupies 13.5% of the world's total.

As to synonymy and distributional ranges of the species and subspecies of Chinese birds, see "A synopsis of the avifauna of China" (Cheng, 1987). Distributional data of the new forms and new records are respectively given in the foot-notes and the relevant literature listed in the "Bibliography" of this book.

As to the species and subspecies newly described in China since the publication of Cheng's Synopsis (1987), names of the nomenclators are cited in the relevant references listed in the foot-notes.

China is blessed with rich avifaunal heritage, yet she can also claim possession of some of the world's most-treasured birds. Of the 48 species of pheasants, 26 (55%) have been found in China, including some of the most spectacular ones, such as *Chrysolophus pictus* (Golden Pheasant), *Crossoptilon mantchuricum* (Brown Eared Pheasant), *Tragopan caboti* (Yellow-bellied Tragopan), *Lophophorus*

Ihuysii (Chinese Monal), and others. There are 15 species of cranes in the world, of which 9 species occur in China. Of the 48 species of Laughing Thrushes (*Garrulax*), China possesses 34 species, including quite a number of rarities as well as endemic forms. What is scarce becomes precious, and in China, we have a good number of very rare species, such as *Caprimulgus centralasicus* (Central Asian Nightjar), *Arborophila rufipectus* (Sichuan Hill Partridge), *Alcippe variegaticeps* (Yellow-fronted Tit-babbler), *Paradoxornis przewalskii* (Grey-crowned Crowtit), and *Latoucheornis siemsseni* (Fujian Blue Bunting), just to mention a few for examples.

Recent research on biodiversity conservation calls for continuation and strengthening of faunal survey, especially in remote areas and in areas of less-known taxa. We are particularly aware that more avifaunal survey is needed in the western part of China, especially in regions situated along the boundaries of our country as well as in the vast sea areas of China. We trust that this checklist will serve to instigate a more thorough and intensive investigation of the birds throughout a big and marvelous country like China.

I should like to quote a stimulating saying of Henry Seebohm (1901, in the *Birds of Siberia*) to be the closing remark of our enduring and strenuous studies on the Chinese birds for more than half a century:

"One of the great charms of the
study of ornithology is the
amount of work which still
remains to be done".

Cheng Tso-Hsin

Academician

Chinese Academy of Sciences

ARRANGEMENT OF ORDERS AND FAMILIES

Orders	Families	Pages	
(I) 潜鸟目 Gaviiformes	1. 潜鸟科 Gaviidae	3	
(II) 鸕鹚目 Podicipediformes	2. 鸕鹚科 Podicipedidae	4	
(III) 囊形目 Procellariiformes	3. 信天翁科 Diomedeidae	5	
	4. 囊 科 Procellariidae	5	
	5. 海燕科 Hydrobatidae	6	
	(IV) 鹈形目 Pelecaniformes	6. 鹈 科 Phaethontidae	6
	7. 鹈 科 Pelecanidae	7	
(V) 鸛形目 Ciconiiformes	8. 鹇鸟科 Sulidae	7	
	9. 鸛 科 Phalacrocoracidae	7	
	10. 军舰鸟科 Fregatidae	8	
	11. 鹭 科 Ardeidae	9	
	12. 鸛 科 Ciconiidae	11	
	13. 鸛 科 Threskiornithidae	12	
	14. 红鸛科 Phoenicopteridae	12	
(VI) 雁形目 Anseriformes	15. 鸭 科 Anatidae	13	
(VII) 隼形目 Falconiformes	16. 鹰 科 Accipitridae	17	
	17. 隼 科 Falconidae	23	
	(VIII) 鸡形目 Galliformes	18. 松鸡科 Tetraonidae	25
(IX) 鹤科 Gruiformes	19. 雉 科 Phasianidae	26	
	20. 三趾鹤科 Turnicidae	34	
	21. 鹤 科 Gruidae	34	
	22. 秧鸡科 Rallidae	35	
(X) 鸽形目 Charadriiformes	23. 鸽 科 Otidae	37	
	24. 雉 科 Jacanidae	38	