

Atlas of the Beijing Birds

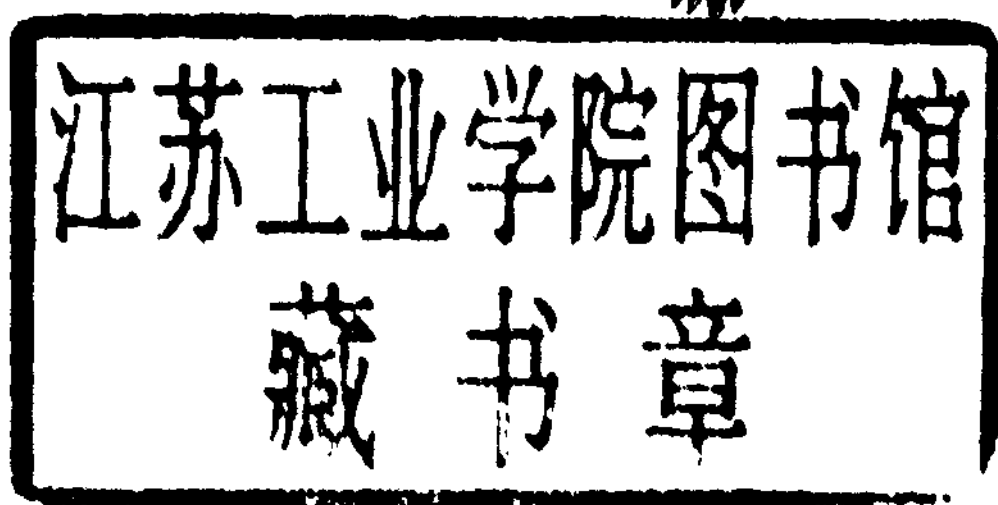
Zhao Xinru



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Preface

In China, especially after the Open Policy, there are more and more avifauna books in state level, region level, or local level and colour atlas were published. Within these books events, the occurrence of the "Atlas of the Beijing Birds" by Professor Zhao Xinru, Beijing Normal University and it is printed in the China Forestry Publishing House ranks high. This Atlas of the Beijing Birds for which I am honored to write a preface admired the author represents an exciting expose of a particular aspect of city, namely its birds.

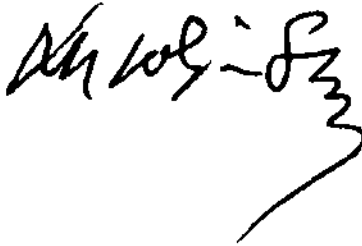
This atlas is the first time published in China with colourful pictures which including 224 bird species in Beijing, needless to say, it could used as the field work dictionary in birdwatching and studies. In this book each species are given in full details are Chinese name, English name, Latin scientific name, measurement, morphology, ecology, status, range and distribution.

For many years, Prof. Zhao persistently undertook field works and research in Beijing birds in mountain forests, wetland, reservoirs, city parks and other natural landscape. Zhao's achievements and contributions to the Beijing birds were duly appreciated and recognized in scientific circles. He has published bird papers amount to more than thirty and several monographs. Yet the key portions of his work were concentrated on, such as "Xiaolongmen Mountain Birds Banding on Passerine", "Seasonal fluctuation of Bird Population Structure in Beijing Parks", and the books, for example "Yuanmingyuan (Old Sum-

mer Palace) Bird Attraction and Ecological Environment”, “Experimental Engineering of the Cherry Valley Reserve” etc. As the result of these works, the author wrote this Atlas of Beijing Birds. It is both academic and practical book in field birding in Beijing and nearby province.

This fascinating book is essential reading for anyone either in professional, or amateurs, wildlife management officers, or NGO members.

At present time, the ‘Knowledge Economic’ is more developed, however, it is based at knowledge, so the publications for knowledge will have a big space and endless emotion, in this regards, I bless to have more and more good bird studies and conservation books published in China.

 (Professor)

Beijing Natural History Museum

Forward

In the summer of 1980, while I was struggling in the dense forests of Lesser Wutai Mountain in Hebei Province for the avifauna research, I felt really hard and puzzled by the identification of birds in the wild. Although I had got enough knowledge in zoology and ornithology and taken some ornithological books for my fieldwork, I still could not identify some bird species correctly. From my hard work at that time, I have had the idea to edit a field guidebook for the field research, which will be much welcomed by field researchers.

From my memory of the past 20 years in ornithological research and the achievement I got, I would first express my sincere thanks to my supervisor, Professor Zheng Guangmei. His dedication to the scientific research, his rich knowledge and field research skills, and his great interest in ornithological study have been guiding and inspiring me in ornithological researches. Just much affected and encouraged by Prof. Zheng, I got the courage to put my idea into fact.

Even now some Chinese ornithological professionals are not so familiar with the identification of wild birds. The problem is caused by some historic reasons. The previous researches in ornithology were usually done by specimens, which were caught by hunting. But with the development of science and the awareness of conservation, ornithologists tend to study birds in their nature conditions. The skills to identify wild birds become the basis to undertake any kinds of projects about avifauna. For these purposes,

a pocket color guide to birds will be quite necessary to those people who have interest in birds.

We are now trying to publish this guide with color pictures, which were shot in the wild in order that readers can have the impression of the real birds and their inhabiting environment. Some information about the identification characteristics, ecology, migratory status and distribution for every bird is included, which would be helpful not only to professionals but also to students in their practice and bird-watchers in bird watching. We sincerely dedicate this book to the people who are interested in birds.

Thanks should be given to Ms. Wang Yongchen and Jin Jiaman for their great contribution to the publication of this book.

Sincere thanks should also be given to Ms. Li Danni for her support to the publication of this book.

And thanks to all the friends who ever contributed to this book!

We would like to receive any kinds of suggestions and comments that you find in use of this book. Your encouragement will be the energy for us to improve this book!

Zhao Xinru
Beijing Normal University
December, 1998

Introduction













A total of 224 species of birds in the guide, belonging to 47 families and 18 orders, have been listed as the classification system of *A Complete Checklist of Species and Subspecies of the Chinese Birds* by Cheng Tso-Hsin with Chinese name, English name and Latin name included. All subspecies have not been recorded in this book.

A quick check for the six eco-categories of birds has been arranged on the picture pieces. There is only one picture for every species, more information about its female, the male or subadult can be found in the related article. Every picture has its species No., Chinese name, English name and Latin name attached below.

The article just following the picture has species No., Chinese name, English name and Latin name included for checking. The article also includes the information about body length, weight, identification characteristics, voice, food, breeding, migratory status, and distribution of the bird. The national protected species are indicated with Roman numerals.

There are some marks below the article for the explanations of migratory status, population size and main habitat for the species.

Male	♂
Female	♀
Resident	●
Summer Resident	⊕

Winter Resident	
Passing Bird	
Abundant	
Common	
Rare	
Accidental	
Plains	
Hills	
Lower Mountains	
High Mountains	
Waters and Wetlands	
Parks and Gardens	

Nature Environment of Beijing and Distribution of Birds

Beijing is located in the northwest corner of the North China Plain, with latitude from $39^{\circ}26'$ to $41^{\circ}03'$ and longitude from $115^{\circ}25'$ to $117^{\circ}30'$. It covers an area of 16807.8 square kilometers. The northwest part is higher than the southeast part. The western mountains belong to Taihang Mountain, and the north to Yanshan Mountain. A plain extends from the southeast to Bohai Sea with a distance of 150 km. The mountains take up about 62% of its total area, the plain 38%.

Because of its position at the middle of the north latitude, the climate of Beijing has the features of mainland monsoon. The forest coverage in Beijing is only 23%, and the forests are nature secondary or plantation. From animal geography point of view, the area of Beijing belongs to the North China Zone of Palaearctic Region. So most birds are Palaearctic species, only few are Oriental species. There are about 340 species of birds recorded in Beijing, which is the result of efforts by many foreign and Chinese specialists for more than one hundred years. The birds inhabiting Beijing have seasonal characteristics: (1) residents, occur all year round; (2) summer breeders, breed in Beijing; (3) winter visitors, winter in Beijing; (4) migrant, pass by during spring and fall; (5) vagrant, accidentally occur in Beijing. Different season holds different species; the number of common bird species is about more than one hundred.

The bird species change according to the altitude

because of different climate and vegetation. Species inhabiting plain areas usually occur in the area of less than 100m altitude, hill species between 100m and 750m altitude, mountain species higher than 750m altitude. In summer, hills and mountains have more species of birds than plains, and in winter the vice versa. During migratory seasons, all habitats are rich in bird species.

As a whole, the distribution of bird species in Beijing differs with the seasons and the altitude. The environment with high biodiversity usually has more bird species, such as forests, wetlands and parks and gardens in the city.

The quick development and high pressure of human activities have affected the distribution of birds in the city of Beijing. The parks and gardens, pools and lakes act as green-island and attract many bird species in every season.

Watching Birds in the Wild

If you are a new bird watcher, you will feel somewhat difficult in bird-watching. The main problem you are facing is that you are lack of experiences and some primary training. You will be a skillful bird-watcher if you could do the bird-watching frequently.

When you do bird-watching, you should pay some attentions to the following aspects. (1) Bird shape: size, feature of body, color of feathers, shapes of bill, feet, wings and tail; (2) Habit: resting posture, flying line, calling, etc.; (3) Habitat: any bird species has its own habitat, usually wetlands and forests are the best habitats for birds.

Sometimes you can not identify the bird individual to its species level, but at least you may classify the bird into one of the six eco-categories:

(1) wading birds: often stay around shallow waters, with long bill, long neck and long legs;

(2) swimming birds: feet with webs, expert in swimming or diving;

(3) land birds: wings usually short and round, feet and legs strong, expert in walking;

(4) birds of prey: eagles, falcons and owls, bill and feet strong;

(5) climbing passerines: their feet evolutionarily suitable for climbing on trees;

(6) singing passerines: expert in calling, wide spread.

In the wild, you may meet several similar species, and you can not tell them from each other. Don't worry for that, please use any kinds of guides to birds and try to recognize the differences among

them. Sometimes you may draw the shape of the bird, and make notes to the parts of the body that you have noticed. Ask any friends who have the same interesting with you, or check bird specimen in museums. Your skills will be raised generally on your constant efforts.

Please remember: keep quiet and try not to make any disturbance to the birds you are watching.

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鹈形目 PELECANIFORMES 004~005



雁形目 ANSERIFORMES

021~045



鸥形目 LARIFORMES

087~091



鹤形目 CICONIIFORMES

006~020



鹤形目 GRUIFORMES

069~077



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