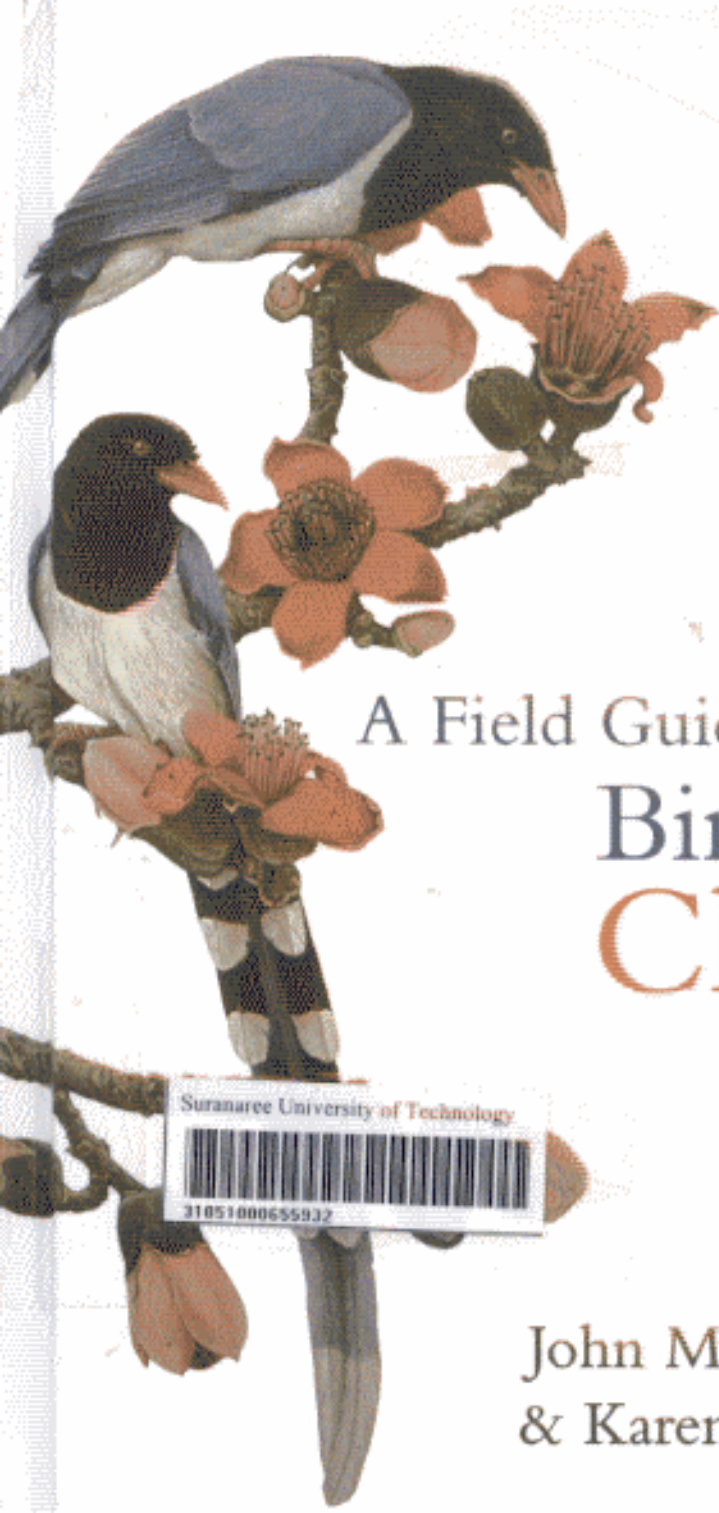


An illustration of two birds, possibly Red-bellied Nuthatches, perched on a branch with several large, five-petaled red flowers. The bird at the top is facing right, and the bird at the bottom is facing left. Both have dark heads, backs, and wings, with lighter underparts. The background is a light, textured grey.

OXFORD

ORNITHOLOGY

A Field Guide to the  
Birds of  
China

Suranaree University of Technology



31051000655932

John MacKinnon  
& Karen Phillipps

The plates are to be found between pp. 10 and 11

List of colour plates ix-x

## INTRODUCTION

Acknowledgements xiii

Author's introduction 1

Introduction to the region 4

History of ornithology in China 11

Avian biogeography of the region 14

Conservation 19

Field techniques for birdwatching 20

Anatomy and plumage of a bird 28

Glossary 29

## FAMILY AND SPECIES DESCRIPTIONS

**Pheasants and allies**—Phasiandae 33

**Whistling ducks**—Dendrocygnidae 56

**Ducks, swans and geese**—Anatidae 57

**Buttonquails**—Turnicidae 74

**Honeyguides**—Indicatoridae 75

**Woodpeckers**—Picidae 75

**Barbets**—Megalaimidae 86

**Hornbills**—Bucerotidae 88

**Hoopoes**—Upupidae 90

**Trogon**—Trogonidae 91

**Rollers**—Coraciidae 92

**Kingfishers**—Alcedinidae, Halcyonidae, and Cerylidae 93

**Bee-eaters**—Meropidae 97

**Cuckoos**—Cuculidae 99

**Coucals**—Centropodidae 105

**Parrots**—Psittacidae 106

**Swifts**—Apodidae 109

**Treeswifts**—Hemiprocnidae 112

**Barn and Grass Owls**—Tytonidae 113

**True Owls**—Strigidae 114

**Frogmouths**—Batrachostomidae 124

**Nightjars**—Eurostopodidae 125

**Nightjars**—Caprimulgidae 125

**Pigeons and Doves**—Columbidae 127

**Bustards**—Otididae 138

**Cranes**—Gruidae 139

|                                                                            |     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| <b>Rails</b> —Rallidae                                                     | 141 |
| <b>Sandgrouse</b> —Pteroclididae                                           | 148 |
| <b>Sandpipers</b> —Scolopacidae                                            | 149 |
| <b>Woodcocks and Snipes</b> —Scolopacinae                                  | 150 |
| <b>Godwits, Sandpipers, Curlews, and Phalaropes</b> —Tringinae             | 153 |
| <b>Painted-snipes</b> —Rostratulidae                                       | 169 |
| <b>Jacanas</b> —Jacanidae                                                  | 169 |
| <b>Thick-knees</b> —Burhinidae                                             | 170 |
| <b>Oystercatchers, Stilts and Plovers</b> —Charadriidae                    | 171 |
| <b>Pratincoles and Coursers</b> —Glareolidae                               | 180 |
| <b>Skuas, Gulls, Skimmers, Terns and Auks</b> —Laridae                     | 181 |
| <b>Hawks, Eagles, Vultures and Falcons</b> —Accipitridae                   | 201 |
| <b>Falcons</b> —Falconidae                                                 | 219 |
| <b>Grebes</b> —Podicipedidae                                               | 224 |
| <b>Tropicbirds</b> —Phaethontidae                                          | 226 |
| <b>Boobies</b> —Sulidae                                                    | 227 |
| <b>Anhingas</b> —Anhingidae                                                | 228 |
| <b>Cormorants</b> —Phalacrocoracidae                                       | 229 |
| <b>Hérons and Bitterns</b> —Ardeidae                                       | 231 |
| <b>Flamingo</b> —Phoenicopteridae                                          | 238 |
| <b>Ibises and Spoonbills</b> —Threskiornithidae                            | 239 |
| <b>Pelicans</b> —Pelecanidae                                               | 241 |
| <b>Storks</b> —Ciconiidae                                                  | 242 |
| <b>Frigatebirds</b> —Fregatidae                                            | 244 |
| <b>Loons</b> —Gaviidae                                                     | 245 |
| <b>Shearwaters, Albatrosses and Storm Petrels</b> —Procellariidae          | 247 |
| <b>Pittas</b> —Pittidae                                                    | 253 |
| <b>Broadbills</b> —Eurylaimidae                                            | 256 |
| <b>Fairy Bluebirds and Leafbirds</b> —Irenidae                             | 256 |
| <b>Shrikes</b> —Laniidae                                                   | 258 |
| <b>Crows and relatives</b> —Corvidae                                       | 262 |
| <b>Waxwings</b> —Bombycillidae                                             | 286 |
| <b>Dippers</b> —Cinclidae                                                  | 287 |
| <b>Thrushes, Shortwings, Old World Flycatchers and Chats</b> —Muscicapidae | 288 |
| <b>Starlings and Mynas</b> —Sturnidae                                      | 330 |
| <b>Nuthatches and Wallcreepers</b> —Sittidae                               | 340 |
| <b>Treecreepers and Wrens</b> —Certhiidae                                  | 345 |
| <b>Penduline Tits and Tits</b> —Paridae                                    | 347 |
| <b>Long-tailed Tits</b> —Aegithalidae                                      | 355 |
| <b>Swallows</b> —Hirundinidae                                              | 357 |
| <b>Crests</b> —Regulidae                                                   | 361 |
| <b>Bulbuls</b> —Pycnonotidae                                               | 362 |
| <b>Cisticolas and Prinias</b> —Cisticolidae                                | 370 |
| <b>White-eyes</b> —Zosteropidae                                            | 374 |

**Warblers, Grassbirds, Laughingthrushes and Babblers—Sylviidae** 375

**Larks—Alaudidae** 465

**Flowerpeckers and Sunbirds—Nectariniidae** 471

**Sparrows, Finches, Pipits and allies—Passeridae** 477

**Finches and Buntings—Fringillidae** 496

#### **APPENDICES**

1. List of endangered and protected species of birds in China 533

2. List of endemic and limited distribution species of China's EBAs 541

3. List of birds of north Arunachal Pradesh not described in book 542

4. List of birds expected on Spratly Islands not described in book 542

5. List of clubs and journals for the area 543

6. New additions to China's Avifauna 545

**BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES** 546

**INDEX AND SYNONYMS** 553