

First Week in Tianjin

This first week of classes went well. In the photo are 13 of my present 15 students. One had to be absent at the time of the photo and a new student joined Friday. There are 5 classrooms total, each with a similar number of students.



For sessions with the entire student body, we did a few American folk dances Monday afternoon. I gave a geography of America lecture on Tuesday morning. Game night was Tuesday evening. Movie night was Thursday when we showed Soul Surfer. Our other afternoon sessions explained the final project that each class must design and present on the final day.

Some students needed English names. I gave a revised name of George to a student from last year, and he likes it. I gave names of Susan, Ruth, Ginger, and Jessica to four of my new students, usually having a few consonants similar to those in their Chinese names. This week the eager reunions with students from last year have been with George, Beauty, Lorelle, and Simon. We expect to see some of them and additional past students in the remaining weeks of our program here in Tianjin. We are pleased that many former students now have good jobs in response to the training that we gave them last year.



This morning some of us took the subway (very convenient, clean, fast, modern) to the city center and we walked to this large church and had lunch there afterwards. We were told that it is the largest in the city, with a size of about 3000 people. Two meetings in the morning are in Chinese and one in the late afternoon is in English.

The ponds on the campus are more mature, recovering from construction scars. So there is a better assortment of birds using them this year. I got 4 new species these past two Saturdays that I have never seen before. So I will show what they looked like.



Little Bittern, immature



Little Bittern, adult



Chick of Eurasian Moorhen



Eurasian Moorhen, immature



Eurasian Moorhen, adult



Oriental Reed-Warbler



Oriental Reed-Warbler



Black-browed Reed-Warbler



The next birds are not new to me but may be interesting.



Common Cuckoo (large bird)



Little Grebe, adult

Ed Holroyd, 14 July 2013



Little Grebe, chick and adult



Little Grebe, immature