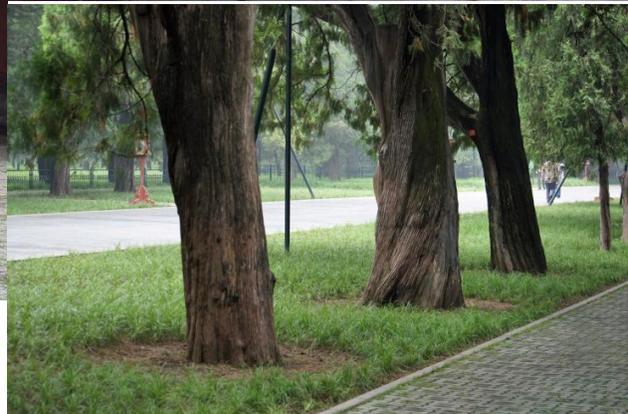


## Transition

Thursday was our day to visit tourist sites in Beijing. Like last year, I chose to go to the Temple of Heaven. However, I did not enter the Temple buildings this year because I did so previously. (See [www.EdHolroyd.info/TripReports/2013 China/Temple-Tianjin.pdf](http://www.EdHolroyd.info/TripReports/2013%20China/Temple-Tianjin.pdf).) After a week of clean air in Beijing the usual pollution limited visibility to about a half mile or kilometer, so most photography was not useful. This photo of the main temple has some of the haze removed by Photoshop. The grounds of the Temple of Heaven are a giant park. I enjoyed my time there just walking around to areas that I did not visit last year, and of course I was looking at the birds. I had lunch beside the large Rose Garden. Music was provided for more than an hour by a group of singers shown in the next photo.



The park has large areas of giant cedar trees hundreds of years old. Perhaps some were planted about five hundred years ago when the temple complex was started. The paintings of the buildings are beautiful. For those who like blue I am including photos of a walkway and of an Azure-winged Magpie.



Notice the neck of the Spotted Dove.



Most of us North American teachers work in cooperation with the CEAIE, a national governmental education organization. This year we are celebrating 30 years of partnership. We learned that more than 3000 of us teachers have served in China over those years, giving training to 51 thousand Chinese teachers who have taught millions of Chinese children. So CEAIE gave us a banquet to celebrate. We met our individual city site directors and helpers there.



Our trip to Zhenjiang was on the high speed train, taking about 4.5 hours. When at full speed the ground went by like that during jet aircraft takeoffs and landings. The ride was very smooth and quiet. My only problem was that my hard shell suitcase had to be in front of me against the seat in front, leaving little room for my legs and feet. My carry-on was on top of that. My knees were pressed against the suitcase and so there was some pain in that cramped position for so many hours.



Our accommodations, classrooms, and meals are all in the same building, a modern structure being used to train students in hotel management. Some of the Chinese teachers are also staying in this hotel during the week and go home on weekends. The other Chinese teachers come from nearby homes each day. I was given a class of 16 Chinese teachers who teach English to grades 7, 8, and 9. The next photos are of the lobby and stairs.



The campus is located amongst vegetable fields in a hilly forested area in the middle of the urban area. It is excellent habitat for my bird watching. The first two days were very rainy and then it cleared and warmed.



On Sunday we were taken to a huge church which is still being built after five years. At the left it shows us leaving. The small images above show the front as top and bottom views. The next photos show the interior.



The hymns all had familiar Western tunes and meanings. There are two storeys of classrooms below the main worship room. We were told by the pastor that the old church building from about 150 years ago is too small but still in use. Though the famous Hudson Taylor died in Changsha (where I saw the remains of his home in 2009), he is buried at a bell tower at either the old or new building in this city of Zhenjiang.



Our hotel building for this English training.

A nearby pond with ducks and forested hillside.



My classroom (with maps and family photos on the wall) has been moved from this room to a more flexible arrangement. Our outside and inside environments are the best I have had in six years of service in China.  
Ed Holroyd, 8 July 2014