

Trip No 2

Party: John Crofts, The Toutai, J E Waller

1871

Saturday 23rd December

Started from Shanghai 5-30 pm with the tide against us and as far as we can make out we have everything on board to make life comfortable. The Toutai makes himself very pleasant and suggests that after two days rest he will be able to do a deal of walking. The tide was so strong that we were obliged to anchor at Tong-ka-doo @ 7 pm.

Sunday 24th December

Arrived at Feng-wan-shan @ 8 am and Tsing-Poo-Hun @ 11 am. Went on shore and saw a few birds but only had one shot and missed. This would be a good place to come to on Sundays. We have had a good fair wind and turn to go from Quinsan to Soochow at 5 pm. Arrive at Soochow at 4 am.

Monday 25th December

Xmas Day. Got through the city without much trouble: weather very foggy. When near to Woosie we had some dispute about the time our different watches kept. Croft made it 6-20 pm, the Toutai 5-55 and I 6-30pm - We have been moving all the time and are still at Woosie. I must say, it is a very large place as the boy has just gone ashore 8-15 pm by Croft's chronometer to buy charcoal. 96 catty for 1500 Cash. Note. Never stop at Woosie to buy charcoal when J.C is on board. The boy returns and reports that the strings of cash taken from Shanghai and put up in lots of 196. Instead of 200 (See Sunzee about this on return)

Tuesday 26th December

Close to Chung Chow @ 7-30am so the loudah says. Went inshore for a walk at 8-30 and bagged a brace of pheasants and a duck. Came back to the boat at half past nine; had some chow and went out again at 10, saw a great many birds, only got another brace. Directed the boat to go on and stop beyond the houses. Walked for a long way into the country and saw a great many birds but they were very wild, this together with bad shooting accounts for only getting a brace - John and I had an argument as to our whereabouts, the pair of us got so mixed that we really did not know which direction to take; the coolie in attendance was an ass and would not understand what we wanted. The word sampan he had no idea of. After questioning some natives in the best Chinese John could muster, as to the direction of Pengio? We struck the canal, on making further enquiries we found that a fragrance boat had gone on, so we made tracks walking about a mile and a half in the rain, but no boay could we see, so hired a nature boat to take us back for 100cash - had not gone far when we were informed that the boat had gone on and the men now had Ring?, on hearing this we paid our money and did the tramp in the direction of Pengio?, marching in single file for about three miles and a half. I was first, the Toutai second and John a bad third. At last I came across a foreign houseboat and to the disgust of all found it to be Doctor Bartono - I enquire of the boy if he had seen our boat go past, no he had not, so I returned to find the dilatory ones, met the Toutai first who said that John, having seen a flag in the distance, made sure it was our own boat, so struck into the country to get a shot or two. I was much put out about this as we had to wait for John to turn up before trying to get back to our boat. We had a good pull at the whiskey flask that

the Dr boy let us have and sat down in a shanty to await the fat boy's return. In about fifteen minutes the gentleman turned up, with one leg of his breeches gone. After a deal of trouble we managed to persuade the owner of a manure boat to take us back to Chang Chow, any respectable boats would not have anything to do with us. We had not gone far when we met our Loudah who had come in search of us, having been told by the natives that two foreigners had gone on towards Pençio? : We were indeed glad to see him, he told us that the boat had been unable to get through on a/c of the rafts - at last however we found our long lost home and right glad we were, as we had been out in the rain all the time and were thoroughly wet through; some hot grog and a change of clothes put us all right again. The Toutai is apparently done up, won't even have a drink. Raining hard with mist dead ahead, the Loudah Chin Chinned us to anchor so we gave the crew a drink all round with the understanding that they were to get underweigh again in 3 hours time.

Wednesday 27th December

Shot on to Tonsejou, the boat going on all the while. Met Cann Campbell and John Deed, their bag was small; we had fair sport though the birds were wild. Came across King, Robeson, Crace and Abbot at Tonsejou about 5pm. They had a run with a Chinaman for having taken a deer of theirs: but after a deal of talk it was settled.

Met Lucas, Church and Jeavon at 6 o'clock.

Sport turned up at 9pm with a chit from Kelly dated the 25th.

Thursday 28th December

Went through Kintang to meet Miller and Kelly at 7-30am and found them at 3 in the afternoon. Shot here for a little while and saw a great many birds, the cover was very thick and the shooting bad, lost several brace of birds.

The Toutai lost a pair of opera glasses that Robinson gave me by dropping them overboard.

Friday 29th December

Went out about 1/2 past 8 all walking in line, saw three pigs, but could not get near enough to have a fair shot. I let fly at one at about 200 yards without effect. The pheasant shooting was good but the cover being very thick a great many birds were lost - It is of no use trying to make a bag without a good retriever - Setters and spaniels are a mistake - you can walk the birds up well enough, the thing is to get them when they are down.

Saturday 30th December

Woke up and found ourselves locked in with ice. Went ashore in the afternoon and had but poor sport - saw a Pig in the open. I had a shot at him, missed of course.

Sunday 31st December

Much about the same place, shot all around the country, did not bag many birds, they were mostly in batches, in the cover etc. saw several deer.

1872

Monday 1st January

Shot over the same ground again, not having good sport, moved on to Kintang where we met Rothwald, Gore-Booth, Cooper and Young. Went on shore late in the evening, saw lots of birds and several deer so decided to remain here.

Tuesday 2nd January

Moved on about 5li. John and I taking the left bank, Miller and Kelly going on the right. The deer are here in great quantities. John Crofts bet Miller and I each \$5 that he would get six brace of pheasants today and in trying to do so made his heel very sore. He came very near running as he got 5 brace and a half.

Wednesday 3rd January

Still within sight of Kintang, shooting very good, plenty of deer and lots of pheasants. Kelly and I saw a fox but could not get a shot at him. Croft stayed in the boat all day, seedy from his over exertion yesterday.

Thursday 4th January

On our way home. Pen sí jou at 2-30pm

Friday 5th January

Arrive at the NE side of Soochow at 7-20am - got clear of the city at 10. At noon we turned off about 3 miles from Quinsan in the direction of San-Kung-que - Off Kea-tung pagoda at 2-45. Met a policeman close to Pao-cong (4-30) in a despatch boat, hailed him and enquired what he was after - he said that some Europeans were in charge of the Chinese near Pen Gio for having shot two natives - did not say who the culprits were but supposed it must be Edbrook? - Tsing Poo at 9-15pm.

Met a Mandarin from the Arsenal on his way to Soochow being towed with his retinue and their boats being towed by a steam launch !!!

Saturday 6th January

Arrived at Feng Wan shang at 2-30 am

Total Game Bagged

	Pheasants	Quail	Deer	Teal	Duck	Plover	Total
Waller	63	2	4	3	4	0	76
Crofts	45	0	3	3	2	2	55
Total	108	2	7	6	6	2	131