

# Beidagang, Tianjin, China

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*Pallas's Reed Bunting*

## General

The purpose of the trip was to locate the threatened Reed Parrotbill, which however did not succeed. The weather was good and clear, but the drawback was the extreme wind making it very difficult to locate a small reed-living bird. Reed Parrotbill has been seen at this site in December 2002 and might possibly be resident. A brief visit by two birders in August 2003 however also failed to locate it.

## Highlights

Few, but three new China ticks though: Rough-legged Buzzard, Whooper Swan and Common Reed Bunting. All well-known friends from Sweden!

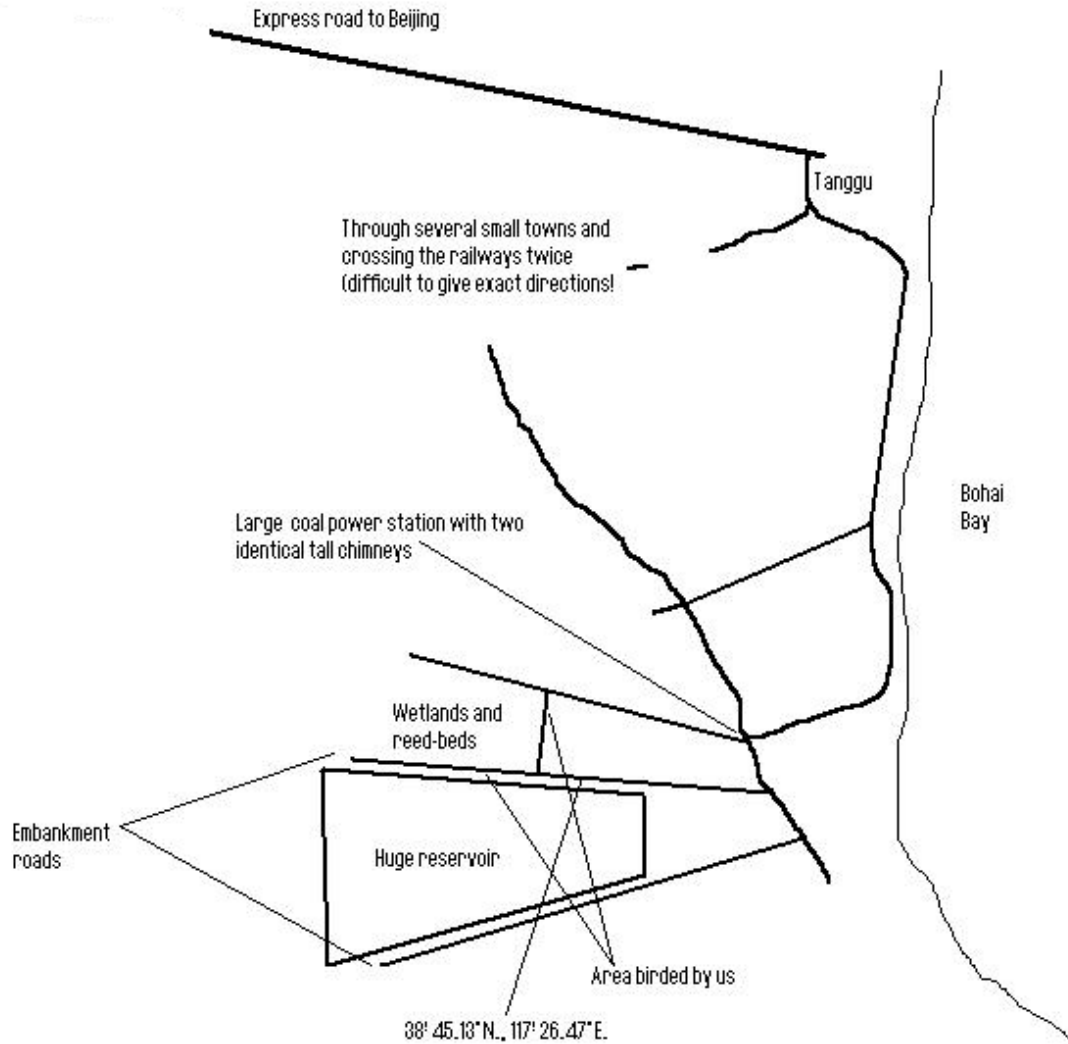
## Itinerary, Weather and Logistics

We went by private car and have no idea about how to arrange a taxi. We left Beijing at 5.45 and arrived Tanggu after 1.5 hours. Then it took almost another hour to find the site, which is due south of Tanggu. We spent several hours looking in the reed-beds and finally gave up at 12.30, when we returned to Beijing.

It was COLD!! About minus 5 and wind-speeds between 15-20 m/s, making it very uncomfortable if not being sheltered, which is not an easy thing with the landscape being virtually tree-less and flatter than a floor.

## Site descriptions

Beidagang is situated ESE of Beijing close to the coastline at Bohai Bay. The area is not at all scenic, totally flat with lots of buildings and industries. However, the area north of the reservoir has plenty of shallow water and reed-beds and is certainly worth birding. Along the embankment road there is a belt of small trees and bushes.



## Birds

Great Crested Grebe, *Podiceps cristatus*

Five.

Bean Goose, *Anser fabalis*

200+ in small flocks.

Spot-billed Duck, *Anas zonorhyncha*

Three.

Smew, *Mergus albellus*

One male and seven females.

Hen Harrier, *Circus cyaneus*

One female.

Rough-legged Buzzard, *Buteo lagopus*  
One.

Eurasian Kestrel, *Falco tinnunculus*  
One.

Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*  
One.

Japanese Quail, *Coturnix japonicus*  
Five flushed from the reedy edge of the reservoir.

Eurasian Curlew, *Numenius arquata*  
Two.

Common Gull, *Larus canus*  
50+ along the coast south of Tanggu.

Vegae Gull, *Larus (argentatus) vegae*  
20+.

Black-headed Gull, *Larus ridibundus*  
20 around the reservoir and 200+ along the coast south of Tanggu.

Little Owl, *Athene noctua*  
One at the embankment road.

Hopoe, *Upupa epops*  
Six along the embankment road.

Asian Short-toed Lark, *Calandrella cheleensis*  
20+.

Eurasian Skylark, *Alauda arvensis*  
20+.

Buff-bellied Pipit, *Anthus rubescens*  
15-20.

Water Pipit, *Anthus spinoletta*  
Two.

Chinese Grey Shrike, *Lanius sphenocercus*  
Three along the embankment road.

Eurasian Magpie, *Pica pica*  
50+.

Daurian Jackdaw, *Corvus dauuricus*  
Some large flocks seen from the express road near Tianjin.

White-cheeked Starling, *Sturnus cineraceus*  
A few small flocks.

Tree Sparrow, *Passer montanus*  
Common.

Little Bunting, *Emberiza pusilla*  
5-8 along the embankment road.

Pallas's Reed Bunting, *Emberiza pallasi*  
50+, mostly along the embankment road.

Common Reed Bunting, *Emberiza schoeniclus*  
One in the reed-beds.