



**Winter birding in**  
**LIAONING**  
**Northeast China**  
**17-30 January**  
**2012**

Paul Holt, Terry Townshend & Tom Beeke

[piholt@hotmail.com](mailto:piholt@hotmail.com)  
[terry.townshend@googlemail.com](mailto:terry.townshend@googlemail.com)  
[thbeeke@yahoo.ca](mailto:thbeeke@yahoo.ca)

## INTRODUCTION

The three of us had birded together in Liaoning during October 2011. We had a great time and were all keen to return. Paul had previously also birded in Liaoning in October 2001 and January 2008 (Holt 2001 and Holt 2008) but had been to Liaoning just once before in winter - for three days in late January 2008. Terry had spent more time in Liaoning in winter than him and had visited the area the previous winter (Terry posts many of his observations on his excellent blog (<http://birdingbeijing.com/>)). Tom has been based in Jinshitan for over seven years now and has actively birded much of the province – see his regular postings on the BirdForum website (<http://www.birdforum.net/forumdisplay.php?f=544>).

The three of us had casually mentioned doing a trip over the Chinese New Year when we met at Laotieshan in autumn 2011 and had followed this up with the occasional email, text message and phone call ever since. We were clearly all keen – but equally all busy. Anyway the trip came together and this report details the birds that we saw.

We spent all our time on the Liaodong Peninsula and a summary of what we did is presented below –

- 17/01/2012:** Dalian Bay from Kaifaqu Binhai Lu (11h45-12h30) & Jinzhou Bay (12h55-15h35). Both sites Paul & Tom.
- 18/01/2012:** Santai cun area, Wafangdian. Paul & Tom
- 19/01/2012:** Jinshitan Golf Course & headland & then Jinshitan Bay. (Paul with Tom joining him in the late afternoon)
- 20/01/2012:** Km 229 on Bin Hai Gong Lu (2 kms south of turning to Zhuanghe Matou); Zhuanghe Matou causeway; Zhuanghe bridge; Gili Dao; Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng at Km 323.2; Pulandian. River downstream of 'Dalijia steel works', Pulandian. Paul only.
- 21/01/2012:** Dalian Bay from Kaifaqu Binhai Lu (08h05-08h40) & Jinzhou Bay (09h00-11h00 & again 13h15-16h15). Paul only
- 22/01/2012:** Dalian Bay from Kaifaqu Binhai Lu (09h30-10h30) & Jinzhou Bay (11h45-16h30). Paul only
- 23/01/2012:** Jinzhou Bay (08h15-16h00). Paul with Tom joining him for an hour late afternoon.
- 24/01/2012:** Jinzhou Bay (09h00-15h15). Paul only
- 25/01/2012:** Dalian Bay from Kaifaqu Binhai Lu (10h30-11h05) & Jinzhou Bay (11h30-15h45). Paul & Terry.
- 26/01/2012:** Jinshitan to Dandong with birding at Dayanghe Qiao Marsh Nature Reserve, the Yalu Jiang in Dandong city, the Yalu Jiang near Taolichun, the Hushan Great Wall, the Yalu Jiang on route from Hushan Great Wall to Taiping Wan the Yalu Jiang at Taiping Wan. Paul, Terry & Tom were joined by Bai Qingquan from Dandong onwards.
- 27/01/2012:** Fenghuangshan. Paul, Terry, Tom & Qingquan
- 28/01/2012:** Road between Dandong & Donggang, then the expressway between Dandong & Zhuanghe, Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng and the ferry between Zhuanghe, Shicheng Dao, Dawangjia Dao & back. Paul, Terry, Tom & Qingquan.
- 29/01/2012:** Jinzhou Bay (09h30-16h00). Paul with Terry in the morning only.
- 30/01/2012:** Jinzhou Bay (07h30-11h30). Paul.

Paul had intended to have gone back to Lushun and Laotieshan, the scenically stunning southernmost county in Liaoning, but ran out of time – there were simply so many great places to bird!

The Liaodong Peninsula is very attractive and photographic opportunities are rife. The heavily indented coastline has numerous huge, sweeping bays and many rugged headlands – ideal terrain for wintering sea-duck.

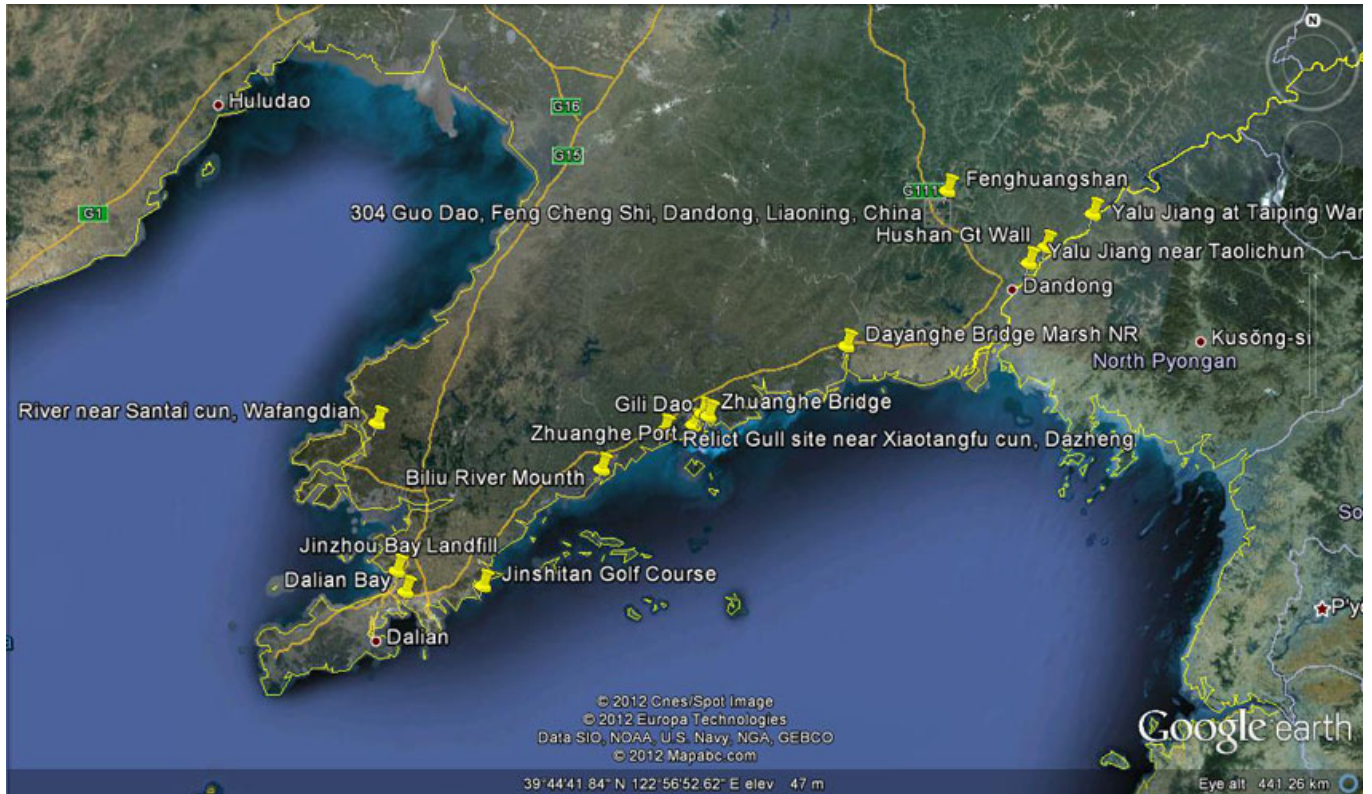
It was very cold – we experienced temperatures that only once rose above freezing and dropped as low as minus 15°C. Fortunately we visited at a time when there was very little wind and, once we were wrapped up, we found that birding outside for a whole day was fine. There was hardly any open fresh water – nearly all of it being heavily frozen and even the sea had large amounts of ice on it. Many of the bays, particularly north of Pikou Gang in Pulandian county but also Jinzhou Bay close to Dalian, held huge amounts of drifted sea ice.

Away from the immediate coast the central parts of the Liaodong Peninsula were barren with clearly nothing growing in the sub-zero temperatures. Rice was the staple crop in the flat lands between these hillocks, with numerous fields of maize stubble covering many of the gentler slopes. The tops of many of the hills appeared to have been recently re-afforested with stands of conifers being obvious particularly south of Zhuanghe county.

Terry & Paul had also hoped to have taken the Dalian to Yantai ferry across the mouth of Bohai Bay. Paul had done this once before (in reverse, from Yantai to Dalian in mid-October 2010) but because this winter trip coincided with the Chinese New Year the ferries were operating on a significantly reduced schedule. Demand for them hadn't lessened much however and consequently there were no tickets to be had! Chinese New Year in 2012 was on the 23 January and there were no tickets available for the Dalian to Yantai ferry from the 19<sup>th</sup> when Qingyu contacted the booking office. The first post New Year ones didn't become available until the 25<sup>th</sup>! This was one of very few disappointments on what was otherwise an excellent trip. Note that tickets for these ferries can be booked on the telephone but will then only be held for two hours by which time

someone needs to appear at the ticket booking office in either Dalian or Yantai and pay for them! With hindsight I guess that we should have booked these through Wang Qingyu's travel agency (see below) in advance of our visit – but the vehicle ferries are huge and it never crossed my mind that they would be fully booked.

We had rather few other hassles because of the Chinese New Year. Most shops and numerous restaurants and hotels were closed for the holiday period and even taxis were impossible to get from mid-day on Chinese New Year's Eve until late evening on New Year's Day! But we anticipated this and had made our plans accordingly. Be warned Chinese New Year isn't the easiest time to be travelling in China – but then neither is Hogmanay in Scotland!



## **BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE BIRDS OF LIAONING**

- Anon. (1991). *Liaoning Shuangtai River National Nature Reserve*.
- Anon. (2010). *The Avifauna of Liaoning She Dao Laotieshan National Nature Reserve (1980-2010)*. Liaoning Shedao Laotieshan NNR Conservation Station. [In Chinese]
- Anon. (2011). *China Coastal Waterbird Census report January 2008 – December 2009*. BirdLife International. Downloadable at - [http://www.chinabirdnet.org/document/waterbirdreport\\_08to09s.pdf](http://www.chinabirdnet.org/document/waterbirdreport_08to09s.pdf)
- Beeke, T. (2010). *The Birds of Dalian: With Special Focus on Jinshitan National Holiday Resort*. Bing Long Books.
- Beeke, T. <http://www.birdforum.net/forumdisplay.php?f=544>
- BirdLife International. (2001). *Threatened Birds of Asia*.
- Brazil, M.A. (1992). *The Birds of Shuangtaizihekou National Nature Reserve, Liaoning Province, P.R. China*. Forktail 7: 91-124.
- Cheng (1987). *A synopsis of the avifauna of China*. Beijing.
- China Bird Reports 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008-2009.
- Ding Chang-qing, Ding Wen-ning, Yin Zuo-hua, Zhang Yin-sun and Xu Yan-gong (2000). *The breeding site and the conservation of the Black-faced Spoonbill in China*. *OBC Bull* 32: 14-17.
- Du M., Yu Y., Wang, X., Lin, X., Wu, C. and Wang, L. (2006). *Preliminary Study on the Migration of Passerines in Autumn in Laotieshan Mountain, Liaoning province, China*. *Chinese Journal of Zoology*. 2006. 41(1):74-79. [In Chinese]
- Holt, P. (2001). *Liaoning: 7-16 and 29-30 October 2001*. Unpublished trip report.
- Holt, P. and Wang, Q. (2008). *Birding in Liaoning, Northeast China 24-27 January 2008*. Unpublished trip report.
- Holt, P., Townshend, T. & Cawley, P. (2011). *Birding in Liaoning, Northeast China 24 September – 16 October 2011*. Unpublished trip report available at [http://www.travellingbirder.com/tripreports/reports/111113154400\\_birding\\_trip\\_report.pdf](http://www.travellingbirder.com/tripreports/reports/111113154400_birding_trip_report.pdf)
- Ingram, C. (1909). *The Birds of Manchuria*. *Ibis* 1909: 422-469. [†† collected by Capt. Karow at "Yingtzu" (Yingkou) in 1901]

- Jin *et al* (1989). *A survey of birds in Panjin wetland, Liaoning Province, China*. Trans. Liaoning Zool. Soc. 7: 21-38. [In Chinese] (Not seen - records summarised by Brazil 1992)
- Kanai, W. *et al* (1993). *Avifauna and conservation of Liaoning of Shuangtai Hekou Nature Reserve*. *Strix* 121: 145-160. [In Japanese.]
- La Touche, J.D. (1920-121). *Notes on the Birds of North-East Chihli, in North China*. *Ibis* 1920: 629-671, 880-920; 1921: 3-48. (also lists observations from Newchwang)
- Liaoning Ornithological Survey Team (1986). *Report on the ornithological survey in Liaoning*. Liaoning University Press, Shenyang. [In Chinese]
- Melville, D.S. (1991). *Notes on birds of Shuangtaizihou National Nature Reserve, Liaoning Province, China*. *Hong Kong Bird Report* 1990: 167-171.
- Melville, D.S. and Li Yu-xiang (1998). *Notes on winter birds of Shuangtaihekou (sic) National Nature Reserve, Liaoning Province, China*. *Forktail* 13: 126-128.
- Seys, P.G. (1933). *Notes sur les oiseaux observes au Jehol de 1911 a 1932*. *Pub. Mus. Hoangho Paiho du Tien Tsin* 27: 1-73.
- Seys, P.G. (1936). *Further bird records from Jehol, China*. *Journal* 34: 99-100. ["Jehol" = Chengde, Hebei].
- Swinhoe, R. (1861). *Notes on the Birds observed about Talien Bay (North China), from June 21 to July 25, 1859*. *Ibis* 1861: 251-262.
- Swinhoe, R. (1863). *Additions and Corrections to the Ornithology of Northern China*. *Ibis* 1863: 87-97.
- Swinhoe, R. (1863b). [Exhibition of Asian Dowitcher]. *PZS* 1863: 181.
- Townshend, T. (2011). *Winter 2011 visit to Liaoning*. Unpublished trip report.
- Townshend, T. and Millington, S. (2011). *Spring Migration at Laotieshan, Dalian, Liaoning Province, 11-19 May 2011*. Unpublished trip report available at <http://birdingbeijing.com/2011/05/23/laotieshan-trip-report/>

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Thanks to Bai Qingquan of Dandong for expert guidance, sharing his knowledge and great company in and around Dandong.

Wang Qingyu of <http://www.chinabirdtours.com/> booked Paul's domestic flights and much of the accommodation throughout the trip (often with little notice) while Richard Lewthwaite supplied Paul with a very useful draft of a Liaoning checklist and gave knowledgeable comments on some of the birds we saw.

Andreas Buchheim ([abu.cachellis@web.de](mailto:abu.cachellis@web.de)) supplied us, incredibly promptly via return email, with details of the wing tagged Mongolian Gulls that we saw at Jinzhou Landfill. He was also generous enough to allow us to present his data in this report.

Thank you all.

## **ORNITHOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS**

Paul recorded 98 species, a modest total for fourteen days birding but, considering the latitude and time of year, a satisfactory one. We had a great time with such excellent birding that it's difficult to single out a small number of highlights however the gulls, not least the five wing-tagged Mongolian Gulls, at Jinzhou Bay Refuse Dump were undoubtedly right up there. The following records surprised and delighted us -

Species infrequently encountered in China (i.e. Liaoning specialities) included Hazel Grouse, Long-tailed Duck, Glaucous and Slaty-backed Gulls, Japanese Pygmy and White-backed Woodpeckers; Varied Tit; Brown-eared Bulbul and Northern Long-tailed Tit.

Other oddities included - one cream-crown Eastern Marsh Harrier besides the Dandong to Donggang road on the 28 January; what was possibly only the fifth Pallas's Gull for Liaoning - a first-winter near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17 January; Liaoning's first Red-breasted Flycatcher - a first-winter in the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19 January; a *lugens* White Wagtail in Jinzhou Bay on three dates between the 22-30 January; a Common Rosefinch in the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19 January and a female Black-faced Bunting around the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19 January 2012.

Surprisingly high counts (for China) included 517 Common Goldeneye in the Yalu Jiang near Dandong on the 26 January; 236 Red-breasted Mergansers from the Zhuanghe to Shicheng Dao and Dawangjia Dao ferry on the 28 January; 25 White-tailed Eagles near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29 January (probably a record count for China); 1550 Mew Gulls on the mudflats at the Xiaotangfu cun 'Relict Gull site', Dazhen, Zhuanghe on the 20 January (probably a record count for China); 5000 'Herring Gull's (of which about 4500 were Mongolian Gulls again probably a record count for China) near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24 January and 51 Ochre-rumped Buntings near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18 January. The latter's probably also a record count for China!



The gulls around Jinzhou Landfill were one of the undoubted highlights of the trip.

We also recorded four Globally Threatened species as defined by BirdLife International and five others considered Near Threatened. VU = Vulnerable and NT = Near Threatened. More details of all nine of these are repeated here -

**SAKER FALCON *Falco cherrug* VU 猎隼**

(1/14 1 1)

1 was seen from expressway G11 at kilometre post 1324 just south of Zhuanghe Shi on the 20/1/2012. (39°42.5'N, 122°55.6'E.) (Paul Holt)

**HOODED CRANE *Grus monacha* VU 白头鹤**

(1/14 1 1)

1 with the Common Cranes near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011. (approx. 39°35.5'N, 121°36.1'E.). (Tom Beeke & Paul Holt)

**SAUNDERS'S GULL *Chroicocephalus saundersi* VU 黑嘴鸥**

(4/14 19 51)

8 adults in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012. (39°02.1'N, 121°43.3'E.).

8 adults near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012. (39°06.2'N, 121°40.8'E.).

9 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 21/1/2012. (39°02.1'N, 121°43.3'E.).

19, 18 adults & one first-winter, in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012. (Paul Holt) (39°02.1'N, 121°43.3'E.).

7 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012. (39°02.1'N, 121°43.3'E.).

**RELICT GULL *Ichthyaetus relictus* VU 遗鸥**

(2/14 1730 1732)

1730 on the mudflats at Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng, Zhuanghe on the 20/1/2012. (Paul Holt)(39°34.7'N, 122°50.3'E.). A record count for Liaoning – and indeed anywhere in winter away from the species' core wintering range along the coastal strip of Tanggu, Tianjin and Tangshan, Hebei. I noted the ages of 1006 birds today and this produced 70 first-winters (7%), just 30 second-winters (3%) & 906 adults (90%) and these proportions are roughly in line with those I used to see in Tanggu, coastal Tianjin during the winter months and the implication is that first-years move further south and east than older birds. Note that some second-winters were no-doubt overlooked among the adults – but not many, if any, first-winters would have been! Today's count represents 14.4% of the known world population of Relict Gull which stands at 12,000 birds (<10,000 mature adults)(Wetlands International. 2006. *Waterbird Population Estimates – Fourth Edition*. Wetlands International, Wageningen, The Netherlands). This could either be a previously unknown wintering site for this globally threatened species or alternatively it could possibly displaced birds from their regular wintering site along the western shore of Bohai Bay. Large flocks were first found wintering in coastal Tianjin in 2000 with up to 7880 counted at at Jingqu, Dagang on the 23/12/2005. Within the next few years however much of the Tianjin coastline had been reclaimed and birds shifted north to winter in coastal Tangshan, Hebei where shorebird researcher Yan Hongyan & her colleagues have counted over 8000 birds). However that area is also being rapidly reclaimed and its possible that many of today's birds were displaced from there. Personally I would think that this is a new site for Relict Gulls – and think that the Tangshan site is still holding large numbers of birds (for the time being at least).

2 first-winters in the Mew Gull flock on the ice at the Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng 'Relict Gull site' on the 28/1/2012. (39°34.7'N, 122°50.3'E.).

**JAPANESE QUAIL** *Coturnix japonica* NT 鹌鹑

(1/14 1 1)

1 was accidentally flushed from the Ochre-rumped Bunting fields near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011. (39°35.3'N, 121°34.2'E.).(Tom Beeke & Paul Holt)

**FALCATED DUCK** *Anas falcata* NT 罗纹鸭

(4/14 194 305)

69 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012. (39°02.1'N, 121°43.3'E.).

194 on the sea at the southern end of Jinshitan Beach, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012. (39°06.2'N, 121°40.8'E.).

9 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012. (39°02.1'N, 121°43.3'E.).

33 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012. (39°02.1'N, 121°43.3'E.).

**CINEREOUS VULTURE** *Aegypius monachus* NT 秃鹫

(1/14 3 3)

3 flew low to the west near the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (40°25.3'N, 124°03.7'E.). (ca.700 metres)(Bai Qingquan, Tom Beeke, Paul Holt & Terry Townshend)

**EURASIAN CURLEW** *Numenius arquata* NT 白腰杓鹬

(2/14 1225 1525)

1225 on the mudflats at the 'Relict Gull site' at Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng, Zhuanghe on the 20/1/2012. (Paul Holt) (39°34.7'N, 122°50.3'E.).

300 on the ice at the Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng 'Relict Gull site' on the 28/1/2012. (39°34.7'N, 122°50.3'E.).

**OCHRE-RUMPED BUNTING** *Emberiza yessoensis* NT 红颈苇鹀

(1/14 51 51)

51 near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011. There were eight at the first site we visited today & a remarkable 43 in a modest (600 metre by 400 metre) reed bed at near Sanlou xian (39°35.3'N, 121°34.2'E.). (Tom Beeke & Paul Holt)

## DAILY DIARY

### Tuesday 17 January 2012. Flew Beijing to Dalian. Afternoon to Dalian & Jinzhou Bays

It was close to Chinese New Year and no airline tickets were being discounted so Paul's full price Air China flight from Beijing to Dalian cost 820 yuan. It was scheduled to leave Beijing at 08h40 – and pulled away from the gate just eight minutes later than that, but as now seems the norm at Beijing Capital Airport (apparently the world's second busiest airport) there were delays on the tarmac and we didn't actually take off for almost another hour. The flight due east to Dalian at the southern end of the Liaodong Peninsula took 51 minutes and touched down at 10h40. Once he'd retrieved his luggage Paul was met by Tom Beeke and the two of us headed north to a couple of his birding sites.

We left Dalian International Airport, on the north-western edge of this city of six million people, at 11h15.

In Dalian city Paul had previously stayed at the five-star Grand Mercure Teda Hotel, 205 Zhongnan Road, Zhongshan, 116015, Dalian (tel.: +86 411 8288 1999)(fax.: +86 411 8288 4011).

#### Weather

According to the information given on the plane it was a cool +1°C when we arrived in Dalian at 10h40. It was this same temperature (+1°C) at Jinzhou Bay three hours later (at 13h30) and there was hardly any wind all day. The down side of this remarkably mild mid-winter weather was that it was misty with poor long range visibility (at times down to perhaps as little as 1.5 kilometres).

#### Site 1. Dalian Wan (Dalian Bay) viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu. (39°02.1'N, 121°43.3'E.).

This site is just south of Dalian Kaifaqu (Dalian Economic Development Zone), about seven kilometres more or less due south of Jinzhou city and perhaps 10 kilometres northeast of Dalian city centre. We spent 45 minutes here - but could easily have spent more. It was an excellent site - a large coastal inlet or bay on the eastern side of the Liaodong Peninsula and about a 40 minute drive from downtown Dalian and 45 minutes from Dalian International Airport. We parked up on the side of the highway (a site that is known to local taxi drivers as the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu) and scanned the bay from two spots that were less than one kilometre apart.

Immediately to the west of the bay there's an elevated light rail line (the Cheng Gui) that links Dalian city with Jinzhou and Jinshitan and there's a station about 800 metres north of the southernmost of the two vantage points.

Falcated Duck NT	69 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.
Mallard	85 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	15 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.
Eurasian Teal	1 female in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.
Common Goldeneye	30 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.
Smew	3 redheads in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.
Common Merganser	157 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.
Red-breasted Merganser	20 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.
Little Grebe	4 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.
Great Crested Grebe	46 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.
Grey Heron	1 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.
Black-headed Gull	20 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.
Saunders's Gull VU	8 adults in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.
Black-tailed Gull	29 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.
Mew Gull	73 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.
Glaucous Gull	1 adult in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.
Heuglin's Gull	1 adult in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.
Vega Gull	1 adult in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.
Mongolian Gull	100 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.
Common Magpie	5 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	5 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.

#### Site 2. Jinzhou Wan (Jinzhou Bay). (39°06.2'N, 121°40.8'E.). 12h55-15h35.

We spent 2 hours 40 minutes at this excellent site on the western side of the Liaodong Peninsula and on the edge of Bohai Bay. The shallow bay here was frozen for at least two or three kilometres out and, with our backs to the massive refuse dump, we spent much of our time scanning the huge flocks of large gulls.

The main part of the dump is best accessed by driving south down Heping Lu right past the 4-star Jinhua Dajiudian in Jinzhou Kaifaqu. About 800 metres south of the hotel go straight across at the traffic lights and after another 400 metres this road passes over the Shenda expressway (the Shenyang to Dalian Expressway). The gates in to the dump are another 300-400 metres straight ahead but we turned right about 50 before them and then almost immediately left again on to a dirt track immediately before the bridge. This narrow, but driveable, track runs down the side of a 20 metre wide, extremely shallow

river that empties in to Jinzhou Wan another 150 metres ahead. The road bends left here and frozen bay sprawls out in front with the dump off to the left. Gulls that aren't feeding on the active dump often loaf on the ice out in the bay – many can be very distant but some invariably come quite close. Similarly the White-tailed Eagles loaf about on the ice occasionally taking short patrolling flights deliberately flushing the waterfowl and gulls.

This site is definitely is great for the gulls but there is a second landfill site about three or four kilometres further south around the bay that, from a distance, appeared to attract even more gulls. Paul attempted to walk to this one day but found the route impossible as it was obstructed by an open water river inlet. This second landfill was also being actively dumped in and there's clearly road access to it but the one taxi driver that he attempted to find it with unfortunately failed. From the northern dump Paul was able to see that on several days there were up to five or six cars parked near the southern dump – these cars held Chinese bird photographers that were apparently internet on photographing the White-tailed Eagles that often gathered on the ice close to that spot. Surprisingly we never saw any photographers near to the northern dump.

Another area worthy of exploring near the northern dump is accessed by going back to the bridge, crossing it and either turning immediately left and walking about 150 metres out on to a levelled area of earth to view the bay or turning right, walking past the fenced sewage works compound before turning left again down the far side of that same compound. 300 metres further on there's another small river that held a modest number of ducks. It's possible to walk to the left here also – and this site gives views over a slightly different part of Jinzhou Bay.

It seems that the large gulls are only present in Jinzhou Bay from the late morning. Very few, if any, appear to roost locally and start to depart by usually flying low over the ice off to the north or northeast from about 15h00 (almost two hours before official sunset).

Including today's encounter three of Liaoning's four sightings of Pallas's Gull, the first of the Province's two records of Little Gull and umpteen encounters with Slaty-backed Gulls are from Jinzhou Dump. Tom had also seen up to 16 White-tailed Eagles here as well as decent numbers of Oriental Storks - the latter only during the winter of 2010/2011. Even though Paul & Tom saw an impressive number of large gulls (3000+) there today Tom had seen more on previous visits. Tom was also impressed by the six Grey Herons we saw there today as its a scarce bird in Liaoning in winter.

The taxi driver that I used on the 21 January told me that there was a small river at the northern end of Jinzhou Bay that holds large numbers of ducks. I never visited this area but the river can apparently be viewed from the Long Wang Miao bridge.

Common Shelduck	8 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.
Ruddy Shelduck	200 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.
Mallard	500 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	435 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.
Northern Pintail	1 female near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.
Eurasian Teal	27 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.
Grey Heron	6 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.
White-tailed Eagle	4 immatures near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.
Peregrine Falcon	2 adults near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.
Black-headed Gull	10 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.
Saunders's Gull VU	8 adults near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.
Pallas's Gull	1 first-winter near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012. Perhaps only the fifth record for Liaoning & the fourth sighting at this excellent gulling site!
Mew Gull	6 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.
Glaucous Gull	1 second-winter near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.
Vega Gull	50 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.
Mongolian Gull	3000 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012. One extremely distant bird had a wing tag on its left wing – but unfortunately it was too far away to read.
[American Herring Gull	1 first-winter near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012 was possibly this species].
Slaty-backed Gull	1, possibly two, first-year near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.
Common Magpie	10 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.
Chinese Hill Babbler	1 was heard near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	20 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.
White Wagtail	1 was heard near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.
Pallas's Bunting	1 was heard near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.

### **Wednesday 18 January 2012. All day in Wafangdian.**

Tom and Zhang Chang, his regular driver (mobile 13591322188), picked Paul up outside his Jinshitan guest house at 07h10 and the three of us headed southwest to Wafangdian, an area that Tom and Mr Zhang had explored multiple times before.

35 minutes after leaving Jinshitan we crossed a large river.



Past the Songmudao/Paotai/Fuzhouwan exit 08h07

Exited the Shenda (Shenyang to Dalian) expressway at the Xietun/Jiaoliudao exit 08h15

Passed through the toll booth 100 metres after exiting and then turned almost immediately right towards Taoya and Wafangdian.

It took us about 1.5 hours to reach the first of Tom's sites – and once there were visited about six or seven such sites – during the day. The more productive ones were –

**1. Fields near Santai cun (39°35.4'N, 121°36.1'E.). 08h55-09h15.**

Ruddy Shelduck	90
Eurasian Skylark	10
Mallard	210
Gadwall	1 male

**Site 2. Santai cun river. (39°36.2'N, 121°34.5'E.). 09h15-10h30.**

A large (80 metres across) frozen river with a tiny area of open water and small patches of reeds on the far side.

White-tailed Eagle	7
Chinese Penduline Tit	1
Pallas's Bunting	1
Ochre-rumped Bunting	8
Eurasian Skylark	4
Common Reed Bunting	2
Common Merganser	1

**Site 3. Bunting fields near Santai cun. (39°35.7'N, 121°35.8'E.). 10h40-11h25.**

Pine Bunting	130
Naumann's Thrush	1
Meadow Bunting	2
Eurasian Skylark	35
Eurasian Hoopoe	1
Chinese Grey Shrike	1

We had lunch in the larger settlement of Santaimanzuxiang (name from Google Earth @ 39°38.2'N, 121°37.0'E.) to the northeast of all the day's birding sites.

**Site 4. Roadside cranes near Santai cun. (approx. 39°35.5'N, 121°36.1'E.). 13h25-13h35.**

After lunch we stopped on the main road fairly close to the bunting fields to view a small flock of cranes.

Common Crane	170
Hooded Crane	1

**Site 5. Ochre-rumped Bunting site near Sanlou xian. (39°35.3'N, 121°34.2'E.). Briefly at about 12h15 & again from 13h45 until about 16h00.**

Track side dykes with stands of 2-3 metre tall reeds and areas of shorter (40-50 cm) cut reeds and grass.

Ochre-rumped Bunting	43
Oriental Stork	1
Eurasian Skylark	130
Chinese Grey Shrike	2
Little Owl	1
Common Kestrel	1
Asian Short-toed Lark	9

**Weather**

Considering the time of year it was a pretty nice, remarkably mild day. There was hardly any wind all day and the temperatures hovered around zero all day long. It was -2°C outside my guest house in Jinshitan at 07h00.

The continuing down side of this remarkably mild mid-winter weather was that it was misty with fairly poor long range visibility – as yesterday this at times dropped to perhaps as little as 1.5 kilometres.

Japanese Quail	1 was accidentally flushed from the Ochre-rumped Bunting fields near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.
Common Pheasant	15 near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.
Taiga or Tundra Bean Goose	8 near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.
Ruddy Shelduck	90 near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.
Gadwall	1 male with the Mallard flock near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.
Mallard	90 near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	10 near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.
Common Merganser	1 female near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.

Little Grebe	1 on a small ice free stretch of river near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.
White-tailed Eagle	7 immatures near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011. They were seen loafing on an iced river in the early morning with four birds, undoubtedly part of this earlier flock, seen about two kilometres upstream in the early afternoon.
Common Kestrel	5 singles around Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.
Merlin	1 hunting in the Pine Bunting fields near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.
Common Crane	140 in roadside fields near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.
Hooded Crane VU	1 with the Common Cranes near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011. (approx. 39°35.5'N, 121°36.1'E.).
Little Owl	1 showed superbly well near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.
Eurasian Hoopoe	2 singles near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.
Chinese Grey Shrike	3 singles near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.
Common Magpie	40 near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.
Japanese Tit	4, two pairs, near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.
Chinese Penduline Tit	7, a party of five, a single bird that was seen & another presumed singleton that was only heard, near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.
Asian Short-toed Lark	9 together near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.
Eurasian Skylark	150 near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.
Red-throated Thrush	1 loosely associating with the Naumann's Thrushes, near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.
Naumann's Thrush	4 near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	50 near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.
Pine Bunting	130 in a single flock near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.
Meadow Bunting	2 loosely associating with the Pine Bunting flock near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.
Rustic Bunting	10, with the Yellow-throated Buntings, on the edge of an orchard close to Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.
Yellow-throated Bunting	20, with the Rustic Buntings, on the edge of an orchard close to Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.
Pallas's Bunting	70 near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.
Ochre-rumped Bunting NT	51 near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011. There were eight at the first site we visited today & a remarkable 43 in a modest (600 metre by 400 metre) reed bed at near Sanlou xian ((39°35.3'N, 121°34.2'E.).
Reed Bunting	2 near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011. There were two together at the first bunting site, & a single where most of the Ochre-rumped Buntings were.

## **Thursday 19 January 2012. All day around Jinshitan.**

Zhang Chang picked Paul up outside his hotel at 07h10 and the two of us headed out to one of Tom's regular birding sites – the Jinshitan Golf Course.

### **Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu. (39°03.7'N, 122°03.6'E.). 09h15-16h40.**

This is a huge area – it's a 36 hole golf course – with an impressive variety of birding habitat around the greens and fairways. There's a modest sized lake (perhaps 600 x 100 metres), lots of fairly mature woodland, scrub with good numbers of ornamental, berry bearing trees as well as an impressive rugged coastline with myriad bays and skerries. It's a great place and one that Tom has seen Varied Tit at quite a few times and where Pallas's and Long-tailed Rosefinches usually winter – but sadly not this year. It's also been a good site (in winter 2011/2012 at least) for Brown-eared Bulbul.

Paul spent about one hour sea-watching from the very easternmost point but saw nothing of note other than a single Pelagic Cormorant and decided to move on. Tom was unable to join Paul today but had been kind enough to have drawn him a map – highlighting a handful of specific sites on it – and after the brief sea watch Paul headed off in search of his Varied Tit site. He hadn't walked much more than 600 metres from the sea watch point when he heard what I thought was a Red-breasted Flycatcher. He heard it again a minute or so later – and soon managed to see it. Paul knew at the time that it was the first record for Liaoning and spent the next hour with it during which time he made some field notes and managed to secure a number of identifiable photographs. After that Paul moved on to explore other areas of the golf course complex returning to look for the flycatcher in the mid-afternoon. Paul was back at the flycatcher site by about 14h15 and Tom arrived just about one hour later – but unfortunately there was simply no sign of the bird. The two of us searched for about another half-an hour before heading down to the coast and having a short sea-watch. This lasted for 45 minutes from 15h52-16h37.

We then headed back to the car, drove out of the golf course complex and headed south down the coast. We drove right to the southern end of Jinshitan beach, parked up and spent about ten minutes with the waterfowl on the sea there.

### **Southern end of Jinshitan Beach, Jinzhouqu. (39°04.0'N, 121°58.7'E.). 17h05-17h15.**

#### **Weather**

Considering the time of year it was a pretty nice, remarkably mild day. There was hardly any wind all day and the temperatures hovered around zero all day long. It was -7°C outside my guest house in Jinshitan at 07h10 & a remarkable +3°C on the Jinshitan Golf Course at 11h45! Visibility wasn't great however and was down to about two kilometres during the early morning sea watch.

Common Pheasant	43 on the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012. These included one party of 23 birds!
Common Shelduck	2 flew east past the evening watch point off the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.

Mallard	108 on the sea off the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012. These involved 75 males (69%) & 33 females)
Common Goldeneye	1 male on the sea off the eastern point off the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.
Common Merganser	3 on the sea off the eastern point off the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.
Red-breasted Merganser	17 on the sea off the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.
Pelagic Cormorant	14 flew east past the evening watch point off the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012. I saw one bird in the morning (it flew west at 07h29) while Tom & me watched 14 (nine singles & a flock of five) gradually move east in the 45 minutes between 15h52 & 16h37. Tom had seen a remarkable 98 here less than a week earlier, and like most of our birds today his were in the late afternoon & again all flew east. Perhaps there's a roost site nearby?
Mongolian Gull	20 flew east past the evening watch point off the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.
[Hill Pigeon	Tom saw 1 near the Red-breasted Flycatcher site on the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012].
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1 in the Jinshitan Golf Course woodland on the 19/1/2012.
[Azure-winged Magpie	Tom saw 1 near the entrance gate to the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012].
Common Magpie	25 in the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.
Japanese Tit	38 in the Jinshitan Golf Course woodland on the 19/1/2012. Birds were seen in parties of between two & 14 birds.
Light-vented Bulbul	7 together around the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.
Brown-eared Bulbul	4 around the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012. Birds were seen at four or five sites within the sprawling golf course. Most encounters were with a pair of birds though I had one sighting of four together. It's quite likely that more than four birds were involved.
Vinous-throated Parrotbill	15 around the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.
Chinese Hill Babbler	4 around the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.
Naumann's Thrush	7 around the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.
Daurian Redstart	3 singles, two males & a female, around the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.
Red-breasted Flycatcher	1 first-winter in the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012. Found at about 08h30 it was watched for about one hour. The first record for Liaoning & probably only the sixth for mainland China. (Photographed). Unfortunately it could not be found in the evening when Tom returned. Today's follows close on the heels of another that Paul was fortunate enough to identify – a first winter in Beijing Botanical Gardens that had been present from mid-December 2011 & he saw on the 1 January 2012.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	10 around the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.
Siberian Accentor	1 was heard in light scrub near the Red-breasted Flycatcher around the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.
Common Rosefinch	1 in light woodland on the edge of the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012. A surprising mid-winter record.
Yellow-throated Bunting	35 around the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012. around the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.
Black-faced Bunting	1 female around the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012. Perhaps the first winter record for Liaoning.
Pallas's Bunting	2 single were around the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.
Common Shelduck	60 on the sea at the southern end of Jinshitan Beach, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.
Falcated Duck NT	194 on the sea at the southern end of Jinshitan Beach, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.
Eurasian Wigeon	11 on the sea at the southern end of Jinshitan Beach, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.
Mallard	32 on the sea at the southern end of Jinshitan Beach, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	4 on the sea at the southern end of Jinshitan Beach, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.
Common Goldeneye	1 male on the sea at the southern end of Jinshitan Beach, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.

## **Friday 20 January 2012. Jinshitan north to Zhuanghe.**

Tom's regular drive picked me up at my Jinshitan hotel and the two of us left at 05h50. We drove north, taking the G11 expressway for the 120 kilometres up to Zhuanghe.

Zhuanghe is 120 kms north of Jinshitan and 56 kms north of Pikou.

Departed Jinshitan	05h50
Yangshufang Exit 397 on the G11 Expressway	06h23
Interchange with GZ261 to Pikou and Pikou North	06h38
Pikou Services	06h40
Wafangdian and Chenzitan Exit off G11 Expressway	06h50
Chengshan and Mingyang Exit (exit no. 357?) off G11 Expressway	06h58
Huayankou Exit 353 off Expressway G11	07h01
Dazheng Exit off G11 Expressway	07h05

Zhuanghe Exit 324 off Expressway G11

**Site 1. Coastal mudflats viewed from the coast road (Bin Hai Gong Lu) at Km post 229. (39°37.4'N, 122°56.8'E.). 07h35-07h45**

This site is about two kilometres south of the turning east to Zhuanghe Matou (Zhuanghe Port).

Common Shelduck	293
Mallard	3
Common Goldeneye	45
Mew Gull	3
Mongolian Gull	30

**Site 2. Causeway out to Zhuanghe Matou. (39°37.2'N, 122°57.9'E.). 08h00-08h30**

Paul had visited this site once before, in January 2008, and was then allowed access in to the small container port right at the very end of the causeway. Unfortunately things had changed and there was much more security here and he definitely wasn't allowed anywhere near the container port, nor indeed allowed to take photographs of anything – boats, gulls, mudflats – nothing.

Note that there is a small vehicle ferry that operates from this port – it runs out to two of the neighbouring islands. Leaving at 08h30 the journey takes 1.5 hours, it spends another 2.5 hours moored up at one of the islands and comes back at 12h30. I didn't catch the price, but would be confident that it'd be cheap.

Common Goldeneye	86
Common Gull	10
Mongolian Gull	60

**Site 4. Zhuanghe Bridge. (39°39.1'N, 122°59.9'E.). 08h30-09h00**

This 1206 metre recently constructed bridge spans the Zhuang river close to its mouth. This area is one of the best sites to see Black-faced Spoonbill during the summer months. From here its 62 kilometres south to Pikou and 150 north to Dandong

Common Shelduck	3
Ruddy Shelduck	445
Mallard	182
Mew Gull	15
Vega Gull	2
Mongolian Gull	140
Hill Pigeon	35

**Site 4. Gili Dao. (39°39.1'N, 123°01.7'E.). 09h07-09h30.**

A small island just a couple of kilometres off to the northeast of the Zhuanghe bridge that's connected to the mainland by a small causeway. This is another good vantage point of the Zhuang river mouth and there's a small tourist complex with a restaurant being constructed on the island.

Mew Gull	20
Mongolian Gull	20
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	110
Meadow Bunting	2

**Site 5. Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng, Zhuanghe. (39°34.7'N, 122°50.3'E.). 09h45-13h25 and again 13h45-14h45.**

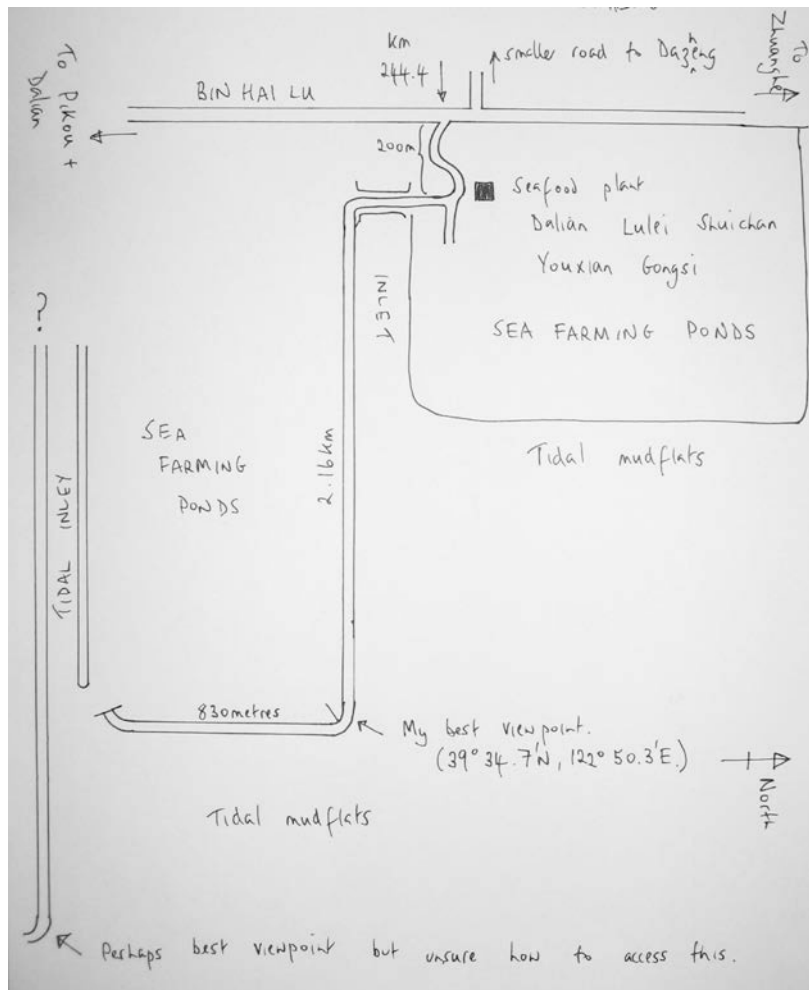
Leaving Gili Island we turned back south, re-crossed the Zhuanghe bridge and continued south on the coast road (the Bin Hai Da Dao). We made our next stop on this road just 15 minutes south of the turning to Zhuanghe Port. This was an excellent site and I spent the rest of the morning and much of the early afternoon at it.

After seeing a large number of very distant curlews from the vehicle we stopped (39°36.5'N, 122°57.3'E.) and scanned the tidal mudflats. There were lots of very distant gulls and Paul counted 640 Relict Gulls. Aware that this was an important find we spent a while attempting to get closer – they were initially perhaps 1.5 – 2 kilometres distant and pretty uninspiring. About two kilometres further south there was a gate in to a complex of frozen fish ponds. The guard house (adjacent to kilometre 238.6 on the Bin Hai Da Dao) was occupied and the inhabitant kindly allow me access. I walked about 500 metres out to the end of the causeway besides his house and could see more Relicts – now 970 – but there were clearly more much further out. Heading back to the car we eventually found the best vantage point and directions to it are given below -

Turn east on to a small road at about kilometre 244.4 on Bin Hai Lu (39°36.0'N, 122°49.8'E). This indistinct junction is opposite a posted turning west to Dazheng. The road slopes steeply down to the fishponds below and 200 metres down here passes a seafood plant on the left (its identified in Chinese as the Dalian Lulei Shuichan Youxian Gongs). The driveable track splits here, take the one that bends to the right and crosses the head of the large drainage channel. This track bends back to the left (east) after another 40 metres and then heads straight out east. We went right to the end (a distance of 2.16 kilometres) to where it bends back to the right. Parking up here the Relict Gulls were now much closer and clearly visible on the mudflats to

the north and east. Paul spend several hours here. He had sent Tom a text message about the gulls earlier in the morning and Tom duly arrived in the early afternoon!

The site is about 500 metres north of the northern end of a new, and apparently still unoccupied, industrial complex. Perhaps the Yinwo Industrial Complex?



**Sketch map of access to the Relict Gull site at Xiatangfucun, Dafeng, Zhuanghe.**

Common Shelduck	71
Mallard	2
Eurasian Curlew	1225
Relict Gull	1730
Mew Gull	1550
Vega Gull	30
Mongolian Gull	750

**Bay full of ice. (39°35.1'N, 122°47.9'E).**

Much of the coast here is taken over by areas of reclaimed fish ponds filling what used to be bays between headlands.

- Zhangxiawang cun 13h33
- Dafangxiawang cun 13h35 Km 247 on Bin Hai Da Dao.
- Huanyuankou new town - deserted
- Zhoutuantun 15h10 (27 kms north of Pikou)
- Biliu Bridge 15h12

**Site 6. Biliu river mouth, Pulandian. (39°28.0'N, 122°33.7'E). 15h20-15h30.**

There was nothing to see from the bridge – all of the inland portion of the river appeared totally frozen so we accessed the coastal river mouth by turning east off the Bin Ha Da Dao at kilometre 271 and driving about 1.5 kilometres down past another area of totally frozen fish ponds. There was absolutely nothing here.

Scanned the sea adjacent to kilometre 291.6

15h55

**Site 7. Area of deeper water at Km 323.2 (10 kilometres north of the Dalujia river), Pulandian. (39°15.2'N, 122°10.1'E). 16h25-16h35)**

Mallard	2
Common Goldeneye	5
Common Merganser	3
Red-breasted Merganser	6

**Site 8. River downstream from the Dalujia steel plant, Pulandian.**

Mallard	51
---------	----

Arrived at the 4-star Jinhua Dajiudian in Jinzhou at about 18h00.

My room in the Dalian Jinhua Hotel, 35 Heping Road, Jinzhou Kaifaqu, Dalian, China 116100. (Tel.: 0411 8781 8888, fax. 0411 8781 1888 and website [Http://www.jinhuaotel.com.cn](http://www.jinhuaotel.com.cn)) cost 329 yuan/night – a significant reduction during the Chinese New Year.

**Weather**

Colder today being -6°C in the early morning and never climbing above -2°C. The calm, almost windless weather of the last few days had left and there was a stiff northerly wind blowing all day – hence it felt much colder. It was also slightly clearer today that it had been the last few days with visibility often approaching about 3 kilometres.

Common Shelduck	367 in coastal Zhuanghe on the 20/1/2012. 293 of these were on the coastal mudflats viewed at Km post 229 on the Bin Hai Gong Lu (this site is about two kilometres south of the turning east to Zhuanghe Port); three more were seen from the Zhuanghe Bridge & the other 71 were on the mudflats at the 'Relict Gull site' at Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng.
Ruddy Shelduck	445 from the Zhuanghe Bridge on the 20/1/2012.
Mallard	240 along the coast between Zhuanghe & the Dalujia Steel Plant, Pulandian on the 20/1/2012. 183 of these were in Zhuanghe & 53 in Pulandian. Three of these were on the coastal mudflats viewed at Km post 229 on the Bin Hai Gong Lu (This site is about two kilometres south of the turning east to Zhuanghe Port); 182 more were seen from the Zhuanghe Bridge; two were on the mudflats at the 'Relict Gull site' at Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng; two more were on the sea at Km 323.2 (10 kilometres north of the Dalujia river) on the Bin Hai Gong Lu, Pulandian while the remaining 51 were in the river downstream of the Dalujia Steel Plant.
Common Goldeneye	136 along the coast between Zhuanghe & the Dalujia Steel Plant, Pulandian on the 20/1/2012. 131 of these were in Zhuanghe & five in Pulandian. 45 of these were on the coastal mudflats viewed at Km post 229 on the Bin Hai Gong Lu (this site is about two kilometres south of the turning east to Zhuanghe Port); 86 were seen from the causeway out to Zhuanghe Port; five more were on the sea at Km 323.2 (10 kilometres north of the Dalujia river) on the Bin Hai Gong Lu, Pulandian.
Common Merganser	3 redheads on the sea at Km 323.2 (10 kilometres north of the Dalujia river) on the Bin Hai Gong Lu, Pulandian on the 20/1/2012.
Red-breasted Merganser	6 on the sea at Km 323.2 (10 kilometres north of the Dalujia river) on the Bin Hai Gong Lu, Pulandian on the 20/1/2012.
[Upland Buzzard	Tom Beeke saw one along the Bin Hai Gong Lu close to Zhuanghe on the 20/1/2012].
Common Kestrel	3 singles along the coast between Zhuanghe & the Dalujia Steel Plant, Pulandian on the 20/1/2012.
Saker Falcon VU	1 was seen from expressway G11 at kilometre post 1324 just south of Zhuanghe Shi on the 20/1/2012. (39°42.5'N, 122°55.6'E.).
Eurasian Curlew NT	1225 on the mudflats at the 'Relict Gull site' at Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng, Zhuanghe on the 20/1/2012.
Relict Gull VU	1730 on the mudflats at Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng, Zhuanghe on the 20/1/2012. (Paul Holt) A record count for Liaoning – and indeed anywhere in winter away from the species' core wintering range along the coastal strip of Tanggu, Tianjin and Tangshan, Hebei. I noted the ages of 1006 birds today and this produced 70 first-winters (7%), just 30 second-winters (3%) & 906 adults (90%) and these proportions are roughly in line with those I used to see in Tanggu, coastal Tianjin during the winter months and the implication is that first-years move further south and east than older birds. Note that some second-winters were no-doubt overlooked among the adults – but not many, if any, first-winters would have been! Today's count represents 14.4% of the known world population of Relict Gull which stands at 12,000 birds (<10,000 mature adults)(Wetlands International. 2006. <i>Waterbird Population Estimates – Fourth Edition</i> . Wetlands International, Wageningen, The Netherlands). This could either be a previously unknown wintering site for this globally threatened species or alternatively it could possibly displaced birds from their regular wintering site along the western shore of Bohai Bay. Large flocks were first found wintering in coastal Tianjin in 2000 with up to 7880 counted at at Jingqu, Dagang on the 23/12/2005. Within the next few years however much of the Tianjin coastline had been reclaimed and birds shifted north to winter in coastal Tangshan, Hebei where shorebird researcher Yan Hongyan & her colleagues have counted over 8000 birds). However that area is also being rapidly reclaimed and its possible that many of today's birds were displaced from there. Personally I would think that this is a new site for Relict Gulls – and think that the Tangshan site is still holding large numbers of birds (for the time being at least).
Mew Gull	1598 in coastal Zhuanghe on the 20/1/2012. Three of these were on the coastal mudflats viewed at Km post 229 on the Bin Hai Gong Lu (This site is about two kilometres south of the turning east to Zhuanghe Port); 10 were

	seen from the causeway out to Zhuanghe Port; 15 more were seen from the Zhuanghe Bridge; 20 nearby at Gili Dao. By far the day's highest count was a remarkable 1550 on the mudflats at the 'Relict Gull site' at Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng.
Vega Gull	32 in coastal Zhuanghe on the 20/1/2012. Two were seen from the Zhuanghe Bridge while the other 30 were on the mudflats at the 'Relict Gull site' at Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng.
Mongolian Gull	1020 along the coast between Zhuanghe & the Dalujia Steel Plant, Pulandian on the 20/1/2012. 1000 of these were in Zhuanghe & 20 in Pulandian. Three of these were on the coastal mudflats viewed at Km post 229 on the Bin Hai Gong Lu (This site is about two kilometres south of the turning east to Zhuanghe Port); 60 were near Zhuanghe Port; 140 more were seen from the Zhuanghe Bridge; 20 nearby at Gili Dao; 750 on the mudflats at the 'Relict Gull site' at Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng. Just 20 were seen in Pulandian with 10 on the sea at Km 323.2 (10 kilometres north of the Dalujia river) on the Bin Hai Gong Lu, Pulandian and another 10 were in the river downstream of the Dalujia Steel Plant.
Hill Pigeon	35 besides Zhuanghe Bridge on the 20/1/2012.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	110 on Gili Dao, Zhuanghe on the 20/1/2012.
Meadow Bunting	2 on Gili Dao, Zhuanghe on the 20/1/2012.

## **Saturday 21 January 2012. All day around Jinzhou.**

### **Sunset and sunrise on 21 January 2012.**

Sunrise	07h07
Sunset	17h01

### **High tide**

Today's high tide in Dalian Port (near Dalian Bay) was at 08h09 and this creeps by between 40 minutes and an hour every day.

### **Site 1. Dalian Wan (Dalian Bay) viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu. (39°02.1'N, 121°43.3'E.). 08h05-08h40.**

Paul took a taxi to this site from the hotel – this should have taken less than 15 minutes but he was unable to explain to the driver exactly where he wanted to go and simply saying Dalian Wan wasn't enough. Its best to ask for the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu.

Paul spent just 35 minutes here – it was bitterly cold and there were far fewer birds than on his previous visit just five days earlier. Not only was it very cold (minus 14°C) and windy – there was also a considerable difference between the temperature of the air and that of the water and the resulting heat shimmer made viewing difficult. It was also high tide and the mud banks that had held decent numbers of gulls when Paul visited the site with Tom on the 17<sup>th</sup> were submerged and the gulls were elsewhere. Nevertheless there were still some interesting birds present.

Mallard	331 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 21/1/2012.
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	3 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 21/1/2012.
Common Pochard	3, two adult males & one immature male, in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 21/1/2012.
Common Goldeneye	16 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 21/1/2012.
Smew	1 redhead in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 21/1/2012.
Common Merganser	42, 35 males & just seven females, in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 21/1/2012.
Red-breasted Merganser	5 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 21/1/2012.
Little Grebe	2 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 21/1/2012.
Great Crested Grebe	13 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 21/1/2012.
Saunders's Gull VU	9 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 21/1/2012.
Mew Gull	30 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 21/1/2012.
Glaucous Gull	1 adult-winter in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 21/1/2012.
'Herring Gull Assemblage'	225 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 21/1/2012. Quite a few of these were only seen flying high – perhaps drifting west towards Jinzhou dump?
Vega Gull	10 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 21/1/2012.
Mongolian Gull	200 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 21/1/2012.

### **Site 2. Jinzhou Wan (Jinzhou Bay). (39°06.2'N, 121°40.8'E.). 09h00-11h00 and again from 13h15-16h15.**

Paul spent a total of five hours here today – things were very quiet in the morning with only a modest number of waterfowl and remarkably just one large gull being present. He left the site at 11h00 and returned just over two hours later when, just as Tom had said there would be, there were huge numbers of large gulls then present. He spent much of the afternoon looking at these.

Ruddy Shelduck	11 on the ice near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012.
Mallard	36 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012.
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	48 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012.
Northern Pintail	1 female near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012.
Eurasian Teal	17 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012.
White-tailed Eagle	7 immatures near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012.
'Herring Gull Assemblage'	3500 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012.
Heuglin's Gull	8 adults with the other large gulls near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012.

Vega Gull	100+ near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012.
Mongolian Gull	3000 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012. Two wing-tagged adults were seen here today & quite remarkably they were in the same group of about 200 birds that I viewed at 16h00! Both had white rectangular tags with black characters on them. On the first bird these read AF over 02 while on the second bird they were AF over 63. I heard back from Andreas Buchheim the very next day – these two birds had been banded as adults two days apart (on the 23 & 25 May 2008 respectively) at Maloye More Island, Lake Baikal (53°04' N, 106°50' E) - 1936 kilometres from Jinzhou by Abu & Sergej Pyzhjanov. What's more Terry Townshend had also seen AF63 at Jinzhou dump the previous winter (on the 7 February 2011). Incredible!
Slaty-backed Gull	1 first-winter near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012.
Common Magpie	3 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012.
Chinese Hill Babbler	1 was heard near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012.
Daurian Redstart	1 female near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	80 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012.
White Wagtail	2 'East Siberian Wagtails' <i>M. a. ocularis</i> in a small free flowing river near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012.
Water Pipit	1 was heard in a small free flowing river near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012.

### Weather

The mild weather of the last four days had changed dramatically – and had reverted to more normal Liaoning winter weather. It was very cold, clear and extremely windy all day. It was -14°C besides Dalian Bay at 08h00 and even midday things only warmed up slightly – being -10°C in Jinzhou Bay by 10h30. Temperatures dropped again, quite dramatically, from about 16h00. It was also extremely windy – making it feel even colder. The northerly wind was probably force 5 or 6 (a fresh to strong breeze) with speeds probably around 40 km/h! The upside was that there was excellent long-range visibility (probably exceeding 10 kilometres) all day.

## Sunday 22 January 2012. Chinese New Year's Eve. All day around Jinzhou.

### Weather

Another very cold, clear and extremely windy day. It was -12°C besides Dalian Bay at 10h00 and even midday things only warmed up slightly – being -10°C in Jinzhou Bay at 12h30. It was also extremely windy all day – but probably very slightly less so than yesterday. The northerly wind was probably still at least force 5 (a fresh breeze) with speeds probably in excess of 30 km/h! There was again excellent long-range visibility (probably exceeding 10 kilometres) all day.

### Site 1. Dalian Wan (Dalian Bay) viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu. (39°02.1'N, 121°43.3'E.). 09h30-10h30.

Common Shelduck	5 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.
Falcated Duck NT	9 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.
Mallard	285 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012. I noted the sex of 253 birds – 154 males (61%) & 99 females.
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	7 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.
Common Pochard	2, an adult & an immature male, in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.
Common Goldeneye	31 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.
Smew	1 redhead in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.
Common Merganser	26 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.
Red-breasted Merganser	7 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.
Little Grebe	2 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.
Great Crested Grebe	16 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.
Grey Heron	1 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.
Black-headed Gull	19 adults in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.
Saunders's Gull VU	19, 18 adults & one first-winter, in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.
Mew Gull	10 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.
Glaucous Gull	1 adult-winter in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.
'Herring Gull Assemblage'	250 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.
Vega Gull	15 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.
Mongolian Gull	200 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	5 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.

### Site 2. Jinzhou Wan (Jinzhou Bay). (39°06.2'N, 121°40.8'E.). 11h45-16h30.

Ruddy Shelduck	11 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.
Mallard	35 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	55 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.
Northern Pintail	1 female near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.
Eurasian Teal	1 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.
Grey Heron	1 immature near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.
White-tailed Eagle	5 immatures near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.
Hen Harrier	1 adult male near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.
Common Kestrel	1 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.
Large falcon sp.	1 bird, either a Peregrine or a Saker Falcon, near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.
Mew Gull	1 first-winter near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.



Glaucous Gull	1 adult-winter near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.
'Herring Gull Assemblage'	4400 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.
Heuglin's Gull	30 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.
Vega Gull	300 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.
Mongolian Gull	3500 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.
Slaty-backed Gull	1 first-winter near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.
Chinese Grey Shrike	1 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.
Common Magpie	2 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.
Daurian Redstart	1 was heard near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	100 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.
White Wagtail	3 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012. Two were seen well enough to racially assign & one of these was an 'East Siberian Wagtail' <i>M. a. ocularis</i> while the other was a 'Black-backed Wagtail' <i>M. a. lugens</i> .
Buff-bellied Pipit	2 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.
Grey-capped Greenfinch	1 was heard near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.

## **Monday 23 January 2012. Chinese New Year's Day. All day around Jinzhou.**

Fireworks well in to the previous evening scarred away all malicious spirits and welcomed in the Chinese Year of the Dragon!

### **Weather**

The weather had changed again – it wasn't as cold as it had been the last couple of days with the day's lowest temperature being -11°C in Jinzhou Bay at 08h30. It had warmed up to -7°C there by 12h00. Better still there was very little wind – hardly any at all in the morning and only a light northerly breeze in the afternoon. Long range visibility had dropped slightly and was poor, dropping to about three kilometres, for a couple of hours mid-morning. It soon improved however and by 11h00 was back to perhaps about eight or nine kilometres range.

Tom came down for about 1.5 hours at Jinzhou Bay in the later afternoon.

### **Jinzhou Wan (Jinzhou Bay). (39°06.2'N, 121°40.8'E.). 08h15-16h00.**

Ruddy Shelduck	152 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.
Gadwall	1 female near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.
Mallard	138 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	260 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.
Northern Pintail	1 female near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.
Eurasian Teal	9 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.
Grey Heron	7 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.
White-tailed Eagle	14, including one near-adult, near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012. Birds do not roost here and none were present when I arrived at 08h15. The first bird appeared at 10h00, 3 by 10h15, 7 by 10h40 and 14 at 11h10. There wasn't an obvious influx – but each time I scanned for them out on the ice there were more! Only two birds were actually seen arriving – and these came in together, arriving over the large suspension bridge way off in the north-eastern portion of the bay.
Common Kestrel	1 adult male near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.
Peregrine Falcon	1 adult near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.
Mew Gull	11, including one very well marked first-winter <i>kamtschatschensis</i> , near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.
'Herring Gull Assemblage'	4000 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012. Very few, if any large gulls roost here and there were only about 150 gulls present when I arrived at 08h15 – and almost all of these were bathing in the small river mouth immediately north of the sewage works). Birds slowly trickled in during the first 1.5 hours until about 09h45 when there was a marked arrival of birds from (I estimated that 800 were present by 10h00). Most of the new arrivals appeared from high and dropped on to the ice of the frozen bay to roost, loaf or preen.
Heuglin's Gull	30 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.
Vega Gull	250 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.
Mongolian Gull	2500 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012. I saw another wing-tagged bird today – AF62. Like the two birds that I saw on the 21 <sup>st</sup> January this bird had also been flagged at Maloye More Island, Lake Baikal (53°04' N, 106°50' E) - 1936 kilometres from Jinzhou by Abu & Sergej Pyzhjanov. Like AF63 it had been caught on the 25 May 2008.
Slaty-backed Gull	2 separate first-winters near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.
Common Magpie	35 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.
Eurasian Skylark	9 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	30 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.
White Wagtail	7 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012. Only two birds were seen well enough to racially assign &, as yesterday, one was an 'East Siberian Wagtail' <i>M. a. ocularis</i> while the other was a 'Black-backed Wagtail' <i>M. a. lugens</i> . The best sites for them were the sewage works and the small river channel immediately to the north.
Water Pipit	1 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.
Grey-capped Greenfinch	1 was heard near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.
Pallas's Bunting	30 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.
Reed Bunting	6 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.

## **Tuesday 24 January 2012. All day around Jinzhou.**

## Weather

A relatively pleasant day. It was -9°C in Jinzhou Bay at 09h30 and it had warmed up to -7°C there by 10h30. The wind had picked up slightly since yesterday – but still from the north. Long range visibility was good (perhaps about eight or nine kilometres range) but it clouded over for a couple of hours from 09h30 and looked as though it might snow. It didn't and the 3/8 cloud cover that developed had dissipated by 11h30.

## Jinzhou Wan (Jinzhou Bay). (39°06.2'N, 121°40.8'E.). 09h05-15h15.

Ruddy Shelduck	60 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012.
Mallard	100 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012.
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	150 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012.
Common Pochard	1 male near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012.
Grey Heron	3 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012.
White-tailed Eagle	14 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012. These included a single adult – the first of that age group that I'd seen on this trip. There was already one bird present when I arrived at 09h00.
Common Kestrel	1 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012.
Mew Gull	3 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012.
'Herring Gull Assemblage'	5000 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012.
Heuglin's Gull	55 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012.
Vega Gull	300 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012.
Mongolian Gull	4500 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012. Two wing-tagged birds were seen again today (AF02 & AF62) & both were birds that I'd seen earlier. 1533 birds were aged today & this produced 325 first-years (21%), 63 second-years (4%), a miniscule number of third years & 1134 adults (74%)
Slaty-backed Gull	4, three first-winters in the same large flock & a second-winter, near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012.
Common Magpie	10 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012.
Eurasian Skylark	1 was heard near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012.
Light-vented Bulbul	1 was heard between Jinzhou Bay refuse dump & the Jinhua hotel on Heping road on the 24/1/2012.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	40 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012.
White Wagtail	2 were heard near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012.
Buff-bellied Pipit	2 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012.
Water Pipit	1 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012.
Pallas's Bunting	10 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012.

## Wednesday 25 January 2012. Most of the day around Jinzhou.

Zhang Cheng, Tom's regular Jinshitan driver picked Paul up at his hotel and the two of them headed off to Dalian airport. Terry's Air China flight from Beijing arrived in Dalian bang on time at 09h45, we met him and the three of us headed off birding. We visited the two regular sites near Jinzhou – spending just over half-an-hour on the edge of Dalian Bay before heading back round to the Jinzhou Dump where we spend just over four hours.

Leaving there at 15h45 we then headed north up to Jinshitan. Arriving just over half-an-hour later we checked in to the small guest house that Paul had used previously (it was closed for the Chinese New Year but Mr Zhang knew the owners well and managed to get them to open up just for us). Our rooms here cost 168 yuan/room/night.

We headed round to Tom and Hannah's for a pizza dinner at 18h30.

## Weather

A pleasant, remarkably mild day. It was -3°C at Dalian airport at 09h45 and a surprising +1°C in Jinzhou Bay at 12h45 and it had warmed up to -7°C there by 10h30. There was hardly any wind in the early morning, but this picked up very slightly from the early afternoon. Long range visibility was OK - poorer than the last few days and down to about four kilometres in the early morning. It picked up as the day progressed and was back to perhaps eight or nine kilometres by the early afternoon. No cloud early morning but perhaps 2/8 cloud cover that developed in the early afternoon.

## Site 1. Dalian Wan (Dalian Bay) viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu. (39°02.1'N, 121°43.3'E.). 10h30-11h05.

Common Shelduck	8 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012.
Falcated Duck NT	33 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012.
Mallard	165 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012.
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	4 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012.
Common Goldeneye	64 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012.
Smew	1 redhead in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012.
Common Merganser	21 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012.
Red-breasted Merganser	13 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012.
Little Grebe	1 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012.
Great Crested Grebe	27 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012.
Saunders's Gull VU	7 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012.

Black-tailed Gull	1 adult in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012.
Mew Gull	10 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012.
Glaucous Gull	1 adult in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012.
'Herring Gull Assemblage'	150 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012.
Mongolian Gull	100 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012.

**Jinzhou Wan (Jinzhou Bay). (39°06.2'N, 121°40.8'E.). 11h30-15h45.**

Common Shelduck	10 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.
Ruddy Shelduck	45 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.
Gadwall	1 female near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.
Mallard	120 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	170 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.
Eurasian Teal	3 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.
Common Pochard	1 male near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.
Grey Heron	2, an adult and a first-winter, near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.
White-tailed Eagle	12 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.
Common Kestrel	1 adult male near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.
Peregrine Falcon	1 adult male near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.
Mew Gull	16 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012. Just three first-winters were racially assigned – two <i>heinei</i> & one extremely well marked <i>kamtschatschensis</i> . Both forms were photographed.
Glaucous Gull	1 adult near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.
'Herring Gull Assemblage'	4000 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.
Heuglin's Gull	40 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.
Vega Gull	300 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.
Mongolian Gull	3000 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.
Slaty-backed Gull	3, two first-winters & a second-winter, near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.
Common Magpie	10 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	30 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.
White Wagtail	1 was heard near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.
Water Pipit	1 was heard near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.
Pallas's Bunting	2 were heard near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.

**Thursday 26 January 2012. Jinshitan to Dandong.**

Tom and Zhang Cheng picked Paul and Terry up at our guest house and the four of us left Jinshitan at 05h10. We had planned to drive 270 kilometres north up to Dandong on the Danda (the Dalian to Dandong) Expressway. Dandong is closer to Shenyang, the provincial capital, than it is to Dalian!

34 kilometres south of Dandong is Donggang.

It took us about 1.5 hours to drive from Jinshitan to the Zhuanghe exit of the expressway.

Exit for road to Panjin and Beijing	07h13	
Exited the expressway	08h10	115 yuan toll payable

Drove in to Dandong city and turned south down the Binjiang Zhong Lu – the road that runs down the Chinese side of the Yalu Jiang – the large river that forms the border of China and North Korea. We met friendly, keen and extremely knowledgeable local birder BAI Qingquan close to the Crowne Plaza hotel on the river front in Dandong.

We then spent much of the rest of the day scanning various sites along the Yalu Jiang between Dandong and Taiping Bay about 39 kilometres in a straight line to the east-north-east.

Crowne Plaza hotel, 158 Binjiang Zhong Lu, Zhenxing District, Dandong 118002. (Tel.: 00 86 415 318 9999 and fax. 00 86 415 318 9888. Email: [crowneplaza@cp-dandong.com](mailto:crowneplaza@cp-dandong.com) and website: [www.crowneplaza.com](http://www.crowneplaza.com)). Qingyu booked our rooms including two breakfast for 458 yuan/room/night.

**Weather**

A pleasant & remarkably mild with hardly any wind all day long. It was -6°C besides the Yalu Jiang near Taolichun at 09h30, a chilly -10°C on the Hushan Great Wall at 11h00 but only -3°C there 1.5 hours later! Temperatures started to drop rapidly after about 16h30 and it was already --6°C when we stopped besides the Yalu Jiang near Taolichun on our way back in to Dandong at 16h45. Long range visibility was pretty good all day.

**Site 1. Dayanghe Qiao Marsh Nature Reserve. Km 1257. (39°53.4'N, 123°37.4'E.). 16 metres asl. 07h15-07h25.**

There were rather few vehicles about and we viewed this reserve from the elevated expressway. It's apparently a staging site during spring and autumn migration for geese.

Upland Buzzard	3
Common Kestrel	2
Oriental Turtle Dove	2
Chinese Penduline Tit	1
Yellow-throated Bunting	1
Pallas's Bunting	6
Reed Bunting	1

**Site 2. Yalu Jiang when viewed from near the Crowne Plaza hotel on Binjiang Zhong Lu in Dandong city. (40°05.1'N, 124°20.9'E.). 08h30-08h45**

Mallard	155
Common Goldeneye	3
Smew	2
Common Merganser	8
White-tailed Eagle	2 immatures
Common Kestrel	1
Mongolian Gull	2

**Site 3. Yalu Jiang near Taolichun. (40°09.9'N, 124°26.4'E.). 09h05-09h40**

This site is just 8.3 kilometres from Dandong city centre and Bai Qingquan had seen Scaly-sided Merganser here as well as several wintering White Wagtails and occasionally up to three Long-billed Plovers.

Mallard	15
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	60
Eurasian Teal	49
Common Merganser	1
Little Grebe	8
Common Kestrel	1
Long-billed Plover	1
Eurasian Skylark	1
Naumann's Thrush	1

**Site 4. Hushan Great Wall. (40°13.8'N, 124°30.9'E.). 09h50-13h15**

Entrance tickets here cost 60 yuan/person – and one should also be purchased for the driver. This is a site that Tom had visited six or seven times and Bai Qingquan numerous times more. It's the site of a refurbished portion of the Great Wall and, as such, is a fairly busy tourist site. Today could have been busier than usual because many people were still on holiday after the Chinese New Year - Tom had been here previously and thought that he was the only person present!

Both Tom and Qingquan had seen Hazel Grouse at Hushan and this is traditionally a very good site for Varied Tit, Long-tailed Rosefinch, Brown-eared Bulbul, Eurasian Nuthatch and Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker. Qingquan had also seen White-backed Woodpecker here on at least one occasion. The species list is very similar to Fenghuangshan – as much better site that we visited the very next day.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk	1
Eastern Buzzard	1 perched juvenile
Common Kestrel	2 singles
Oriental Turtle Dove	2
Great Spotted Woodpecker	2 – a pair
Grey-headed Woodpecker	2
Chinese Grey Shrike	1
Common Magpie	5
Marsh Tit	8
Japanese Tit	10
Brown-eared Bulbul	5
Chinese Hill Babbler	1
Naumann's Thrush	1
Dusky x Naumann's intergrade	1
Daurian Redstart	2
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	20
Alpine Accentor	5
Siberian Accentor	6
Grey-capped Greenfinch	4
Meadow Bunting	6
Yellow-throated Bunting	30

**Site 5. Yalu Jiang on route from Hushan Great Wall to Taiping Wan.**

Mallard	51
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	4
Common Goldeneye	4
Common Merganser	12
Common Kestrel	1
Oriental Turtle Dove	1

**Site 6. Yalu Jiang at Taiping Wan. (40°19.8'N, 124°43.5'E.). 24 metres asl. 14h00-15h50**

This is Bai Qingquan's best site for Scaly-sided Merganser with up to seven or eight birds typically being present in March and often also again in November-December.

Mallard	110
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	30
Common Goldeneye	510
Smew	8
Common Merganser	8
Little Grebe	15
Common Kestrel	2
Brown-eared Bulbul	4

Mallard	331 in the Yalu Jiang near Dandong on the 26/1/2012. 155 of these were in the Yalu Jiang when viewed from near the Crowne Plaza hotel on Binjiang Zhong Lu in Dandong city; 15 were near Taolichun; 51 more were seen between the Hushan Great Wall & Taiping Wan while the remaining 110 were at Taiping Wan itself.
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	94 in the Yalu Jiang near Dandong on the 26/1/2012. 60 were in the Yalu Jiang near Taolichun; four more were seen between the Hushan Great Wall & Taiping Wan while the remaining 300 were at Taiping Wan itself.
Eurasian Teal	49 in the Yalu Jiang near Taolichun, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.
Common Goldeneye	517 in the Yalu Jiang near Dandong on the 26/1/2012. Three of these were in the Yalu Jiang when viewed from near the Crowne Plaza hotel on Binjiang Zhong Lu in Dandong city; four more were seen between the Hushan Great Wall & Taiping Wan while the remaining 510 were at Taiping Wan itself.
Smew	10 in the Yalu Jiang near Dandong on the 26/1/2012. Two of these were in the Yalu Jiang when viewed from near the Crowne Plaza hotel on Binjiang Zhong Lu in Dandong city while the other eight were at Taiping Wan.
Common Merganser	29 in the Yalu Jiang near Dandong on the 26/1/2012. Eight of these were in the Yalu Jiang when viewed from near the Crowne Plaza hotel on Binjiang Zhong Lu in Dandong city; one other was near Taolichun; 12 more were seen between the Hushan Great Wall & Taiping Wan while the remaining eight were at Taiping Wan itself.
Little Grebe	23 in the Yalu Jiang near Dandong on the 26/1/2012. Eight of these were in the Yalu Jiang were near Taolichun while the other 15 were at Taiping Wan.
White-tailed Eagle	2 on the edge of Dandong city on the 26/1/2012. They both flew north up river when viewed from near the Crowne Plaza hotel on Binjiang Zhong Lu in the early morning.
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	1 over the Hushan Great Wall, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.
Eastern Buzzard	1 perched juvenile near the Hushan Great Wall, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.
Upland Buzzard	3 about 34 kilometres south of Dandong & near kilometre 1218 on the Danda Expressway on the 26/1/2012.
Common Kestrel	16 around Dandong on the 26/1/2012. Two of these were close to the Dayanghe Qiao Marsh Nature Reserve, another six singles were between there & the Dandong exit off the Danda Expressway; one more was seen over the Yalu Jiang when viewed from near the Crowne Plaza on Binjiang Zhong Lu in Dandong city; another was seen close to the Yalu Jiang near Taolichun; two more were near the Hushan Great Wall; another two were close to Gulouzi xiang and the final two birds of the day were at Taiping Bay.
Long-billed Plover	1 besides the Yalu Jiang near Taolichun, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.
Mongolian Gull	2 on the edge of Dandong city on the 26/1/2012. They both flew north up river when viewed from near the Crowne Plaza hotel on Binjiang Zhong Lu in the early morning.
Oriental Turtle Dove	5 around Dandong on the 26/1/2012. Two of these were close to the Dayanghe Qiao Marsh Nature Reserve; two more were near the Hushan Great Wall while the final bird was seen between there & Taiping Bay.
Little Owl	1 was seen close to the Dandong exit off the Danda Expressway at 07h45 on the 26/1/2012.
Great Spotted Woodpecker	2, a pair, at the Hushan Great Wall, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.
Grey-headed Woodpecker	2 at the Hushan Great Wall, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.
Chinese Grey Shrike	1 near the Hushan Great Wall, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.
Common Magpie	15 around Dandong on the 26/1/2012.
Marsh Tit	8 at the Hushan Great Wall, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.
Japanese Tit	10 at the Hushan Great Wall, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.
Chinese Penduline Tit	1 was heard at the Dayanghe Qiao Marsh Nature Reserve (Km 1257 on the Danda Expressway) on the 26/1/2012.
Eurasian Skylark	1 was heard over the Yalu Jiang near Taolichun, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.
Brown-eared Bulbul	9 near Dandong on the 26/1/2012. Five of these were at the Hushan Great Wall while the other four were at Taiping Bay.
Chinese Hill Babbler	1 at the Hushan Great Wall, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.
Naumann's Thrush	2 singles near Dandong on the 26/1/2012. One of these was near Taolichun while the other was at the Hushan Great Wall.
Dusky x Naumann's intergrade	1 at the Hushan Great Wall, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.
Daurian Redstart	2 at the Hushan Great Wall, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	20 at the Hushan Great Wall, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.
Alpine Accentor	5 at the Hushan Great Wall, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.
Siberian Accentor	6 at the Hushan Great Wall, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.
Grey-capped Greenfinch	4 at the Hushan Great Wall, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.
Meadow Bunting	6 at the Hushan Great Wall, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.
Yellow-throated Bunting	31 near Dandong on the 26/1/2012. Just one was at the Dayanghe Qiao Marsh Nature Reserve (Km 1257 on the Danda Expressway) while the other 30 were at the Hushan Great Wall.

Pallas's Bunting

6 were heard at the Dayanghe Qiao Marsh Nature Reserve (Km 1257 on the Danda Expressway) on the 26/1/2012.

Reed Bunting

1 was heard at the Dayanghe Qiao Marsh Nature Reserve (Km 1257 on the Danda Expressway) on the 26/1/2012.

### **Friday 27 January 2012. All day Fenghuangshan near Dandong.**

We had breakfast as soon as the buffet opened at 06h00 and left the hotel at 06h45. We took expressway G11 from Dandong west towards Shenyang.

Departed Crowne Plaza	06h45
Wulongbei exit off the Shenyang expressway	07h10
Longhu Bridge	07h12
Fengcheng Services	07h28
Exited expressway G11 when posted to Feng Huang Shan	07h30

The site that we were going to on Fenghuangshan was the Chaoyang Temple and this is about a 15 minute drive from the expressway. This site is a very popular tourist site and Bai Qingquan told us that he'd never visited the mountain during the summer months – simply because it was packed with tourists. There are at least two quite famous temples on the hill and quite a few drinking water springs and these are what the average tourist visits. Normally there's an expensive entrance fee payable on entering the mountain (Tom thought that it was an exorbitant 180 yuan/person) and normally private vehicles aren't allowed in to the park either. However because it was the last day of the Chinese New Year's holiday entrance today was free and vehicles were allowed to drive right up to the Chaoyang Temple! Fortunate indeed.

#### **Weather**

A pleasant and fairly mild day with rather little wind for much of it. It was -12°C near the Crowne Plaza hotel besides the Yalu Jiang in Dandong at 06h40 and a similar temperature near the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan by 08h30.

Birds seen from expressway G11 between Dandong and Fenghuangshan included -

Common Kestrel	5
Oriental Turtle Dove	4
Common Magpie	5
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	5

#### **Chaoyang Temple area, Fenghuangshan. (40°24.5'N, 124°04.4'E.). 530 metres asl. 08h00-14h20**

This popular tourist site is about 42 kilometres northwest of Dandong.

We had intended to have driven as far up the mountain as possible but there was a gate across the road just above the Chaoyang Temple. There was a small soldier's station close by – and they were apparently the ones responsible for the locked gate. Bai Qingquan talked with one of the young soldiers and eventually managed to persuade them to allow us to walk inside – but only with another young soldier escorting us. This we did – but the young guy received a call on his mobile and hour or so later and we were summoned back down. That turned out to be fine and we spent the rest of the morning and early afternoon walking back down the road. The birding was excellent and despite the cold weather the forest was remarkably bird rich. Key species here include – Hazel Grouse, Japanese Pygmy and White-backed Woodpeckers, Varied Tit, Brown-eared Bulbul and Eurasian Nuthatch and we were fortunate to see all of them. In total we probably walked between 1.5 – 2 kilometres down the road, past a second and larger complex of tourist temples (at one of which birds such as Varied and Marsh Tits and Eurasian Nuthatches were coming to food) to the park barrier. Bai Qingquan then took us to a second site – and area of mixed forest with more conifers and larches at a lower elevation on the same mountain. We spent about another 1.5 hours here – seeing a few Coal Tits and Goldcrest – two species that we hadn't previously encountered on our trip.

#### **Fenghuangshan lower elevation mixed conifer and larch woodland. (40°25.3'N, 124°03.7'E.). 175 metres asl. 14h30-15h45**



Birds seen on Fenghuangshan today were -

Hazel Grouse	1
Cinereous Vulture NT	3
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	1
Oriental Turtle Dove	4
Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker	6
White-backed Woodpecker	5
Grey-headed Woodpecker	1
Eurasian Jay	5
Large-billed Crow	1
Marsh Tit	10
Varied Tit	10
Coal Tit	5
Japanese Tit	10
Brown-eared Bulbul	8
Northern Long-tailed Tit	5
Goldcrest	4
Eurasian Wren	1
Eurasian Nuthatch	12
Dusky or Naumann's Thrush	1

Orange-flanked Bluetail	[1h?]
Siberian Accentor	6
Brambling	1
Yellow-throated Bunting	10

Hazel Grouse	1 was heard & subsequently seen near the road below the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan at 10h00 on the 27/1/2012. (460 metres)
Cinereous Vulture NT	3 flew low to the west near the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (ca.700 metres)
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	1 in the lower mixed conifer & larch woodland on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (220 metres)
Common Kestrel	5 between Dandong & Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012.
Oriental Turtle Dove	8 between Dandong & at Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (40-ca.500 metres)
Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker	6 near the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. Common & conspicuous. (420-560 metres)
White-backed Woodpecker	5, two pairs one of which was joined by a second & interacting male, near the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (480-550 metres)
Grey-headed Woodpecker	1 near the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (470 metres)
Eurasian Jay	5 near the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (480-550 metres)
Common Magpie	5 between Dandong & Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012.
Large-billed Crow	1 over the ridge above the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (ca.650 metres)
Marsh Tit	10 around the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (420-570 metres)
Varied Tit	10 around the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (430-550 metres)
Coal Tit	5 in the lower mixed conifer & larch woodland on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (210 metres)
Japanese Tit	10 around the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (200-560 metres)
Brown-eared Bulbul	8 around the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (460-550 metres)
Northern Long-tailed Tit	5, a party of three & a separate pair, around the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (420 & 450 metres)
Goldcrest	4 in the lower mixed conifer & larch woodland on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (200 metres)
Eurasian Wren	1 was heard near the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (560 metres)
Eurasian Nuthatch	12 near the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (420-570 metres)
Dusky or Naumann's Thrush	1 near the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (430 metres)
[Orange-flanked Bluetail	1 bird, possibly this species, was heard below the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (480 metres)]
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	5 in Dandong city on the 27/1/2012.
Siberian Accentor	6 in scrub right besides the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (540 metres)
Brambling	1 was heard below the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (450 metres)
Yellow-throated Bunting	10 in the lower mixed conifer & larch woodland on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (190-220 metres)

#### Mammals, reptiles & amphibians

Red Squirrel	Terry saw 1 near the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (560 metres)
--------------	--

Another area that Bai Qingquan suggested that we should visit near Dandong – but one that we didn't have time to do, was Kuandian xian – a huge area of forested mountains about a 2.5 – 3 hour drive from Dandong city. Hazel Grouse is apparently common there and Bai's also seen flocks of up to 50 Pallas's Rosefinches there! It's a particularly cold site.

### **Saturday 28 January 2012. Early am Dandong to Donggang. Late morning drove south to Zhuanghe. Pm near there before returning to Jinzhou in the evening.**

Terry still wasn't feeling very well this morning so Paul, Tom, Qingquan and our driver headed out birding without him. The four of us had breakfast in the hotel at 06h00 (but it was slow today and the staff weren't ready until at least 06h20) and we left at 06h45. We drove south down the Bin Hai Lu towards Bai Qingquan's shorebird study sites at Donggang. We returned to Dandong mid-morning, picked Terry up and then headed back to Zhuanghe. Qingquan was keen to see the Relict Gull site near Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng that Paul had discovered just over a week earlier and came along with us. Unfortunately it was high tide when we arrived at that site and there were very, very few birds present on the ice covered mud flats. Consequently we spent very little time here before heading back north to Zhuanghe Port. We had intended to just scan the bay from the causeway but discovered that the vehicle ferry to Shicheng Dao, Dawangjia Dao and back was just about to leave. Scrambling quickly to board it (and purchasing the tickets on board) it headed off at 14h10 – and returned at 17h20.

Once back at Zhuanghe we headed in to town, found Qingquan a taxi to take him back to Dandong, had something to eat in the town centre KFC and headed off south. We dropped Tom off at his home in Jinshitan before Paul and Terry continued south back to Jinzhou Kaifaqu. Unfortunately the 4-star Jinhua Dajudian that Paul had stayed at during the Chinese New Year was having problems with their plumbing and there was no hot water. Fortunately we knew this in advance and Qingyu booked two rooms for us instead at the poorer Dalian Aerbin Jinshan Hotel, 82 Wuyi Road, Jinzhou (tel. 411 87682288 and fax. 87681115). Rooms here cost 328/night including a breakfast that started at 07h00 and finished at 09h00. Paul's hotel room was rather cold – even with the heating on to the max!

#### Weather



Cold but with rather little wind for much of the day. It was -15°C at kilometre post 40 between Dandong and Donggang at 07h30. It was also -7°C on the Zhuanghe to Shicheng Dao and Dawangjia Dao ferry at 17h15 – but it felt much colder in the wind as we were travelling.

**Road between Dandong and Donggang.**

We made several stops along this road as it runs south along the Chinese side of the Yalu Jiang. There are numerous sites along it where it overlooks North Korea.

Stops along the 60 kilometre section of road that we drove included -

**Site 1. (39°57.9’N, 124°17.2’E.). 07h20-07h30.**

**Site 2 (39°57.9’N, 124°17.2’E.). 07h20-07h30.**

**Site 3. Waste ground and rank roadside field near a large roadside sign stating that the area’s a designated factory zone at kilometre 43.5. 07h35-08h00.**

Common Pheasant	2
Mallard	20
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	15
Common Goldeneye	7
Red-breasted Merganser	5
Eastern Marsh Harrier	1
Hen Harrier	4
Upland Buzzard	2
Common Kestrel	7
Merlin	1
'Herring Gull Assemblage'	5
Mongolian Gull	2
Oriental Turtle Dove	2
Chinese Grey Shrike	2
Common Magpie	10
Eurasian Skylark	25
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	20
Siberian Accentor	1
Yellow-throated Bunting	1
Pallas's Bunting	90
Reed Bunting	2

**Expressway between Dandong and Zhuanghe. Ca.10h00– 11h40.**

The drive from Dandong south to Zhuanghe took about 1 hour 45 minutes via the G11 expressway and we didn't stop. Our route again took us past the Dayanghe Qiao Marsh Nature Reserve at Km 1257 (39°53.4’N, 123°37.4’E.).

Upland Buzzard	2
Common Kestrel	5
Chinese Grey Shrike	2
Common Magpie	10

**Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng. Ca.12h40-12h55.**

Unfortunately it was high tide when we were here and the large number (1730) of Relict Gulls that I'd seen on the 20 January 2012 were no-where to be seen and we could only find a couple of distant first-winters among the Mew Gull flock. Similarly there were very few Eurasian Curlew here today – Paul had counted 1225 on the 20 January 2012. Birds seen here today included –

Common Shelduck	3
Mallard	3
Eastern Buzzard	1
Upland Buzzard	1
Common Kestrel	1
Eurasian Curlew NT	300
Relict Gull VU	2
Mew Gull	340
'Herring Gull Assemblage'	50
Vega Gull	1
Mongolian Gull	20

**Ferry between Zhuanghe, Shicheng Dao, Dawangjia Dao and back.**

This modest sized vehicle ferry could hold four or five large trucks and had three floors, The lower deck was exclusively for vehicles, the middle deck is where most of the foot passengers went while we stood outside at the rear of the uppermost deck. It was pretty stable and tripod mounted telescopes could just about be used – though this became impossible when the boat juddered while turning. The ferry cost 36 yuan per foot passenger each way and was apparently scheduled to leave Zhuanghe Matou (Zhuanghe Port) at 14h00 (it departed ten minutes late). It took just 15 minutes to travel across to the smaller quay at Shicheng Dao where we spent little over five minutes. Tom had been out in to the bay once before (but on a privately chartered boat on a summer organised Black-faced Spoonbill trip) while Qingquan had made this crossing numerous times before. Enterprisingly Qingquan’s also chartered smaller boats to explore more areas around Dawangjia Dao and has been rewarded by seeing up to 14 Black-throated Loons there in March.

Note that without Bai Qingquan there is a very, very good chance that three of us (the three foreigners Paul, Terry and Tom) would not have been allowed on to the Zhuanghe ferry at all today. At least one of the islands has a military element on it and foreigners apparently need special permission to visit. We didn’t have this and Qingquan had to repeatedly reassure the boat crew and police on the Zhuanghe quay that we would NOT get off the ferry when it docked at either Shicheng Dao or Dawangjia Dao. The ferry left Zhuanghe Matou at 14h10, docked at Shicheng Dao at for five minutes from 14h25 and then headed off to Dawangjia Dao. The latter leg, when the ferry took 1 hour 5 minutes to travel the 15.4 kilometres south-east from the quay on Shicheng Dao to Dawangjia Dao, was by far the best for birds. Much of that leg was through shallow sea ice with the occasional patch of open water and was rather bird less. However the last ten minutes, as we approached Dawangjia Dao, was superb. This is where all bar one of the Long-tailed Ducks, all the Pelagic Cormorants and most of the larger gulls including all three Slaty-backed and the single Glaucous were.

The fishing settlement around Dawangjia Dao quay’s quite a large, and apparently quite affluent one. It’s also surrounded by thousands, if not tens of thousands of floating fishing buoys – and it was on and among these that many of the birds were to be found.

The ferry left Dawangjia Dao at 15h47 and headed straight back to Zhuanghe Port where we arrived almost exactly 1.5 hours later.

**Zhuanghe Port. (39°36.1’N, 122°57.8’E).**

**Shicheng Dao quay. (39°33.8’N, 122°58.3’E).**

**Dawangjia Dao quay. (39°26.9’N, 123°04.5’E).**

Common Shelduck	190 in the bay near Zhuanghe Port.
Mallard	1 male on the sea near Dawangjia Dao.
Long-tailed Duck	64. One male was right next to Zhuanghe Port while all the others were within ten minutes of arriving at the Dawangjia Dao quay.
Common Goldeneye	168
Red-breasted Merganser	231
Pelagic Cormorant	70
White-tailed Eagle	1
Rough-legged Buzzard	1
Black-tailed Gull	110
Mew Gull	5
Glaucous Gull	1
'Herring Gull Assemblage'	400
Vega Gull	30
Mongolian Gull	200
Slaty-backed Gull	3
Common Magpie	2
Common Pheasant	2 singles from the Dandong to Donggang road on the 28/1/2012.
Common Shelduck	193 in Zhuanghe on the 28/1/2012. Three of these were at the Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng 'Relict Gull site' while the other 190 were e bay near Zhuanghe Port itself.
Mallard	24 between Dandong & Zhuanghe on the 28/1/2012. 20 of these were seen in the Yalu Jiang near Dandong city while the other four were in Zhuanghe – with three at the Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng 'Relict Gull site' & a male male seen from the Zhuanghe ferry near Dawangjia Dao.
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	15 in the Yalu Jiang near Dandong city on the 28/1/2012.
Long-tailed Duck	64 from the Zhuanghe to Shicheng Dao & Dawangjia Dao ferry on the 28/1/2012.
Common Goldeneye	175 between Dandong & Zhuanghe on the 28/1/2012. Just seven of these were in the Yalu Jiang near Dandong city while the other 168 were seen from the Zhuanghe to Shicheng Dao & Dawangjia Dao ferry. 57 of the latter were in the bay right besides Zhuanghe harbour, another 25 were between the Zhuanghe quay & the Shicheng Dao quay while the remaining 86 were on the sea between Shicheng Dao & Dawangjia Dao.
Red-breasted Merganser	236 from the Zhuanghe to Shicheng Dao & Dawangjia Dao ferry on the 28/1/2012.
Pelagic Cormorant	70 from the Zhuanghe to Shicheng Dao & Dawangjia Dao ferry on the 28/1/2012.
White-tailed Eagle	1 near adult on the ice off Zhuanghe Port on the 28/1/2012.

Eastern Marsh Harrier	1 cream-crown besides the Dandong to Donggang road on the 28/1/2012. It was at kilometre post 40. An exceptional mid-winter record this far north!
Hen Harrier	4 ringtails at kilometre 43.5 besides the Dandong to Donggang road on the 28/1/2012.
Eastern Buzzard	1 juvenile near Zhuanghe Port on the 28/1/2012.
Upland Buzzard	5 between Dandong & Zhuanghe on the 28/1/2012. Five of these were in Dandong with two separate first-years besides the Dandong to Donggang road (one at kilometre 43.5 & the other out ten kilometres further south). Two other singles were besides expressway G11 (at kilometre posts 1224 & 1233) while the only bird seen in Zhuanghe was a first-year at the Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng 'Relict Gull site'.
Rough-legged Buzzard	1 flew west over Zhuanghe Port on the 28/1/2012.
Common Kestrel	13 between Dandong & Zhuanghe on the 28/1/2012. Seven of these were besides the Dandong to Donggang road with four hunting over waste ground at kilometre 43.5. Five more were seen from expressway G11 between Dandong & Zhuanghe while
Merlin	1 at kilometre 43.5 besides the Dandong to Donggang road on the 28/1/2012.
Eurasian Curlew NT	300 on the ice at the Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng 'Relict Gull site' on the 28/1/2012.
Relict Gull VU	2 first-winters in the Mew Gull flock on the ice at the Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng 'Relict Gull site' on the 28/1/2012.
Black-tailed Gull	110 from the Zhuanghe to Shicheng Dao & Dawangjia Dao ferry on the 28/1/2012. A couple of these, including a slightly oiled bird, was right besides Zhuanghe Port while the others were near the massive concentration of floating buoys in the bay within about ten minutes of arriving at the Dawangjia Dao quay.
Mew Gull	345 in Zhuanghe on the 28/1/2012. 340 of these were at the Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng 'Relict Gull site' while the other five were seen from the Zhuanghe to Shicheng Dao & Dawangjia Dao ferry. Four of the latter, including two first-winter <i>heinei</i> & another first-winter that showed some characters of <i>kamtschatschensis</i> were in & around Zhuanghe Port itself, while the fifth bird, an adult was on Dawangjia Dao.
Glaucous Gull	1 adult-winter from the Zhuanghe to Shicheng Dao & Dawangjia Dao ferry on the 28/1/2012. It was with most of the other large gulls that we saw from this boat near the massive concentration of floating buoys about ten minutes before we arrived at the Dawangjia Dao quay.
'Herring Gull Assemblage'	455 between Dandong & Zhuanghe on the 28/1/2012. Just five were seen in Dandong – and all were besides the Yalu Jiang south of the city. The other 450 were in Zhuanghe with 50 at the Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng 'Relict Gull site' and 400 from the Zhuanghe to Shicheng Dao & Dawangjia Dao ferry.
Vega Gull	31 in Zhuanghe on the 28/1/2012. Just one of these was at the Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng 'Relict Gull site' with the other 30 being seen from the Zhuanghe to Shicheng Dao & Dawangjia Dao ferry.
Mongolian Gull	222 between Dandong & Zhuanghe on the 28/1/2012. Just two were seen in Dandong – and both were besides the Yalu Jiang south of the city. The other 200 were in Zhuanghe with 20 at the Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng 'Relict Gull site' and 200 from the Zhuanghe to Shicheng Dao & Dawangjia Dao ferry.
Slaty-backed Gull	3 adults from the Zhuanghe to Shicheng Dao & Dawangjia Dao ferry on the 28/1/2012. They were with most of the other large gulls that we saw from this boat near the massive concentration of floating buoys about ten minutes before we arrived at the Dawangjia Dao quay.
Oriental Turtle Dove	2 at the designated factory zone at kilometre 43.5 south of Dandong on the 28/1/2012.
Chinese Grey Shrike	4 singles in Dandong on the 28/1/2012. These involved two besides the Dandong to Donggang road & two others besides the G11 expressway between Dandong & Zhuanghe.
Common Magpie	22 between Dandong & Zhuanghe on the 28/1/2012.
Eurasian Skylark	25 at the designated factory zone at kilometre 43.5 south of Dandong on the 28/1/2012.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	20 besides the Dandong to Donggang road on the 28/1/2012.
Siberian Accentor	1 was heard at the designated factory zone at kilometre 43.5 south of Dandong on the 28/1/2012.
Yellow-throated Bunting	1 at the designated factory zone at kilometre 43.5 south of Dandong on the 28/1/2012.
Pallas's Bunting	90 besides the Dandong to Donggang road on the 28/1/2012. These included a flock of 70 that flew up high out of waste ground when flushed by a Hen Harrier at kilometre 43.5.
Reed Bunting	2 singles were heard besides the Dandong to Donggang road on the 28/1/2012. The first was heard at kilometre post 40.

## **Sunday 29 January 2012. All day in Jinzhou Bay.**

Paul and Terry had breakfast at 08h30 and left the hotel in a taxi at 09h15. We took this straight to Jinzhou Laji Chang (Jinzhou Rubbish Dump) where Paul spent the rest of the day. Terry left at about 13h00, returned to the hotel to pick up his luggage before taking another taxi from there to Dalian Airport for his late afternoon flight back to Beijing.

### **Weather**

Rather mild with little wind. The only temperature reading that I took was -3°C at Jinzhou Rubbish Dump at 16h00.

### **Jinzhou Wan (Jinzhou Bay). (39°06.2'N, 121°40.8'E.). 09h30-16h00.**

Ruddy Shelduck	37 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.
Gadwall	5, four males & a female, near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.
Mallard	278 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	301 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.
Eurasian Teal	2 males near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.
Common Pochard	1 male near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.
White-tailed Eagle	25, mostly immatures but including at least one full adult, near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012. A marked increase from the numbers here just four days earlier. (Paul Holt & Terry Townshend)
Eastern Buzzard	1 adult flew high over Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.
Common Kestrel	1 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.
Merlin	1 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.

Peregrine Falcon	2 adults near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.
Black-headed Gull	1 adult near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012. Although I had seen modest numbers of this species nearby in Dalian Bay today's was the first sighting in Jinzhou Bay in six visits during the last 12 days.
Black-tailed Gull	2 adults near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012. Although I had seen modest numbers of this species nearby in Dalian Bay today's was the first sighting in Jinzhou Bay in six visits during the last 12 days.
Mew Gull	20, including eight first-winter <i>heinei</i> & one first-winter <i>kamtschatschensis</i> , near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.
Glaucous Gull	1 second-winter near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.
'Herring Gull Assemblage'	4000 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012. Birds were already starting to leave the area by 15h00 with long strings of them flying low to the ice, way out & heading north. Interestingly this is the same direction that I have seen the White-tailed Eagles arrived from in the morning.
Heuglin's Gull	50 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.
Vega Gull	60 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.
Mongolian Gull	3000 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012. Three wing-tagged birds were seen today – Terry & me saw AB19, a bird neither of us had seen before, in the morning while I saw & photographed AF02 & AF63 in the afternoon. I had seen both of those earlier in January. AB19 had, according to Andreas Buchheim (in litt. later that same day) been tagged by him at Khökh Nuur, Ne Mongolia (49°32' N, 115°31' E)(a distance of 1271 kilometres from Jinzhou) as an adult on 26 May 2004.



Slaty-backed Gull	3 first-winters near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.
Common Magpie	6 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.
Eurasian Skylark	1 was heard near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	20 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.
White Wagtail	2 flew over Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.
Water Pipit	1 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.
Pallas's Bunting	1 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.

## **Monday 30 January 2012. Morning Jinzhou Bay, afternoon flight back to Beijing.**

Paul had breakfast as soon as it started at 07h00 and left the hotel in a taxi at 07h25. He took this straight to Jinzhou Laji Chang (Jinzhou Rubbish Dump) where he spent the rest of the morning. It was the eighth day of the Chinese New Year today and, with eight being an auspicious number, the fireworks were back out in force with rockets even being launched from on top of the landfill! No life for a bird and most of the gulls and eagles were way, way out on the iced up bay and only ventured close to shore on a couple of occasions.

Paul left the landfill at 11h15, significantly earlier than he had expected to do so because of the massive number of fireworks, took a taxi back to the hotel, had lunch, picked up his luggage and headed to Dalian Airport. His Air China flight from Dalian to Beijing left on time at 16h25 and landed in Beijing 1 hour 5 minutes later.

### **Weather**

Another pretty nice day, colder than yesterday (-12°C at Jinzhou Rubbish Dump at 07h45) but with even less wind than yesterday – basically a very light East-north-east breeze.

**Jinzhou Wan (Jinzhou Bay). (39°06.2'N, 121°40.8'E). 07h30-11h30.**

Ruddy Shelduck	21 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.
Gadwall	1 male near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.
Mallard	267 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	302 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.
Northern Pintail	1 female near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.
Eurasian Teal	8 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.
Common Pochard	1 male near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.
Common Merganser	1 female near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.
White-tailed Eagle	22 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012. There was already one bird present when I arrived at 07h30 and another was flying-in. Subsequent counts were 13 at 08h45 and 09h10; 16 at 09h25; 17 at 09h55 & 22 at 11h15. A single adult bird was among the immatures.
Hen Harrier	1 adult male, near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012. It was a different male to that seen on the 22 January.
Common Kestrel	1 adult male near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.
Black-tailed Gull	1 adult near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.
Mew Gull	31 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012. Mostly first winters there were 16 <i>heinei</i> & one well marked <i>kamtschatschensis</i> .
Glaucous Gull	1 second-winter, probably the same bird as yesterday, near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.
'Herring Gull Assemblage'	2500 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012. 30 birds were resting on the ice when I arrived at 07h30 & had possibly roosted locally as it wasn't until 08h15 that any other birds started to filter in. By 10h00 there were perhaps as many as 500 present & numbers continued to increase up until the time I left (11h30). Unfortunately most of them spent much of the morning way out on the ice - seemingly prevented from coming closer to the dump and shoreline by the incessant fireworks!
Heuglin's Gull	40 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012. near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.
Vega Gull	50 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.
Mongolian Gull	2000 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012. A sample count of just 272 birds yielded 118 (43%) first-years, 15 (6%) second-years, just five third-years & 134 (49%) adults. A single wing-tagged adult was seen – AB58 & according to Andreas Buchheim (in litt. later that same day) it had been tagged by him at Khökh Nuur, Ne Mongolia (49°32' N, 115°31' E)(a distance of 1271 kilometres from Jinzhou) as an adult on 27 May 2004. This is the day after tag no. AB19, which I saw at Jinzhou Landfill on the 29 Jan. 2012 was banded at this same site!
Slaty-backed Gull	2, a first-winter and a second-winter, near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.
Common Magpie	10 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.
Eurasian Skylark	2 were heard near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	220 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.
White Wagtail	1 <i>lugens</i> near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.
Water Pipit	1 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.
Pallas's Bunting	40 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.
Reed Bunting	1 was heard near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.

## **BIRD LIST**

Four figures are given in parentheses - the first two of these figures details how many days out of 14, that particular species was seen in Liaoning. The third figure notes the highest daily count and the fourth the number of bird-days. Hence the entry for Common Pheasant reads (3/14 43 60)- birds were noted on 3 of the 14 days, with up to 43 individuals on any one date and with a total of 60 bird-days.

Names, order and taxonomy follow the CBR [China Bird Report] Checklist of Birds of China v2.0 (2011) accessed on-line 15 Sept. 2011.

### **HAZEL GROUSE *Tetrastes bonasia* 花尾榛鸡**

(1/14 1 1)

1 was heard & subsequently seen near the road below the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan at 10h00 on the 27/1/2012. (460 metres)

### **JAPANESE QUAIL *Coturnix japonica* NT 鹌鹑**

(1/14 1 1)

1 was accidentally flushed from the Ochre-rumped Bunting fields near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.

### **COMMON PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus* 雉鸡**

(3/14 43 60)

15 near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.

43 on the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012. These included one party of 23 birds!

2 singles from the Dandong to Donggang road on the 28/1/2012.

### **[TAIGA or TUNDRA BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis* or *A. serrirostris*] [豆雁 or 短嘴豆雁]**

(1/14 8 8)

Taiga or Tundra Bean Goose

8 near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.

### **COMMON SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna* 翘鼻麻鸭**

(6/14 367 653)

8 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.

2 flew east past the evening watch point off the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.

60 on the sea at the southern end of Jinshitan Beach, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.

367 in coastal Zhuanghe on the 20/1/2012. 293 of these were on the coastal mudflats viewed at Km post 229 on the Bin Hai Gong Lu (this site is about two kilometres south of the turning east to Zhuanghe Port); three more were seen from the Zhuanghe Bridge & the other 71 were on the mudflats at the 'Relict Gull site' at Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng.

5 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.

8 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012.

10 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.

193 in Zhuanghe on the 28/1/2012. Three of these were at the Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng 'Relict Gull site' while the other 190 were e bay near Zhuanghe Port itself.

### **RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea* 赤麻鸭**

(10/14 445 1072)

200 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.

90 near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.

445 from the Zhuanghe Bridge on the 20/1/2012.

11 on the ice near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012.

11 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.

152 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.

60 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012.

45 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.

37 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.

21 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.

### **GADWALL *Anas strepera* 赤膀鸭**

(5/14 5 9)

1 male with the Mallard flock near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.  
1 female near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.  
1 female near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.  
5, four males & a female, near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.  
1 male near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.

## **FALCATED DUCK *Anas falcata* NT 罗纹鸭**

**(4/14 194 305)**

69 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.  
194 on the sea at the southern end of Jinshitan Beach, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.  
9 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.  
33 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012.

## **EURASIAN WIGEON *Anas penelope* 赤颈鸭**

**(1/14 11 11)**

11 on the sea at the southern end of Jinshitan Beach, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.

## **MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* 绿头鸭**

**(13/14 585 3165)**

85 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.  
500 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.  
90 near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.  
108 on the sea off the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012. These involved 75 males (69%) & 33 females)  
32 on the sea at the southern end of Jinshitan Beach, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.  
240 along the coast between Zhuanghe & the Dalujia Steel Plant, Pulandian on the 20/1/2012. 183 of these were in Zhuanghe & 53 in Pulandian. Three of these were on the coastal mudflats viewed at Km post 229 on the Bin Hai Gong Lu (This site is about two kilometres south of the turning east to Zhuanghe Port); 182 more were seen from the Zhuanghe Bridge; two were on the mudflats at the 'Relict Gull site' at Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng; two more were on the sea at Km 323.2 (10 kilometres north of the Dalujia river) on the Bin Hai Gong Lu, Pulandian while the remaining 51 were in the river downstream of the Dalujia Steel Plant.  
331 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 21/1/2012.  
36 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012.  
285 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012. I noted the sex of 253 birds – 154 males (61%) & 99 females.  
35 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.  
138 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.  
100 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012.  
165 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012.  
120 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.  
331 in the Yalu Jiang near Dandong on the 26/1/2012. 155 of these were in the Yalu Jiang when viewed from near the Crowne Plaza hotel on Binjiang Zhong Lu in Dandong city; 15 were near Taolichun; 51 more were seen between the Hushan Great Wall & Taiping Wan while the remaining 110 were at Taiping Wan itself.  
24 between Dandong & Zhuanghe on the 28/1/2012. 20 of these were seen in the Yalu Jiang near Dandong city while the other four were in Zhuanghe – with three at the Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng 'Relict Gull site' & a male seen from the Zhuanghe ferry near Dawangjia Dao.  
278 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.  
267 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.

## **CHINESE SPOT-BILLED DUCK *Anas zonorhyncha* 斑嘴鸭**

**(12/14 450 1873)**

15 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.  
435 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.  
10 near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.  
4 on the sea at the southern end of Jinshitan Beach, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.  
3 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 21/1/2012.  
48 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012.  
7 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.  
55 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.  
260 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.  
150 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012.  
4 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012.  
170 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.  
94 in the Yalu Jiang near Dandong on the 26/1/2012. 60 were in the Yalu Jiang near Taolichun; four more were seen between the Hushan Great Wall & Taiping Wan while the remaining 300 were at Taiping Wan itself.  
15 in the Yalu Jiang near Dandong city on the 28/1/2012.  
301 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.  
302 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.

**NORTHERN PINTAIL** *Anas acuta* 针尾鸭

(5/14 1 5)

- 1 female near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.
- 1 female near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012.
- 1 female near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.
- 1 female near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.
- 1 female near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.

**EURASIAN TEAL** *Anas crecca* 绿翅鸭

(8/14 49 117)

- 1 female in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.
- 27 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.
- 17 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012.
- 1 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.
- 9 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.
- 3 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.
- 49 in the Yalu Jiang near Taolichun, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.
- 2 males near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.
- 8 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.

**COMMON POCHARD** *Aythya ferina* 红头潜鸭

(6/14 3 9)

- 3, two adult males & one immature male, in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 21/1/2012.
- 2, an adult & an immature male, in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.
- 1 male near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012.
- 1 male near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.
- 1 male near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.
- 1 male near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.

**LONG-TAILED DUCK** *Clangula hyemalis* 长尾鸭

(1/14 64 64)

- 64 from the Zhuanghe to Shicheng Dao & Dawangjia Dao ferry on the 28/1/2012.

**COMMON GOLDENEYE** *Bucephala clangula* 鹊鸭

(8/14 517 971)

- 30 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.
- 1 male on the sea off the eastern point off the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.
- 1 male on the sea at the southern end of Jinshitan Beach, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.
- 136 along the coast between Zhuanghe & the Dalujia Steel Plant, Pulandian on the 20/1/2012. 131 of these were in Zhuanghe & five in Pulandian. 45 of these were on the coastal mudflats viewed at Km post 229 on the Bin Hai Gong Lu (this site is about two kilometres south of the turning east to Zhuanghe Port); 86 were seen from the causeway out to Zhuanghe Port; five more were on the sea at Km 323.2 (10 kilometres north of the Dalujia river) on the Bin Hai Gong Lu, Pulandian.
- 16 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 21/1/2012.
- 31 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.
- 64 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012.
- 517 in the Yalu Jiang near Dandong on the 26/1/2012. Three of these were in the Yalu Jiang when viewed from near the Crowne Plaza hotel on Binjiang Zhong Lu in Dandong city; four more were seen between the Hushan Great Wall & Taiping Wan while the remaining 510 were at Taiping Wan itself.
- 175 between Dandong & Zhuanghe on the 28/1/2012. Just seven of these were in the Yalu Jiang near Dandong city while the other 168 were seen from the Zhuanghe to Shicheng Dao & Dawangjia Dao ferry. 57 of the latter were in the bay right besides Zhuanghe harbour, another 25 were between the Zhuanghe quay & the Shicheng Dao quay while the remaining 86 were on the sea between Shicheng Dao & Dawangjia Dao.

**SMEW** *Mergellus albellus* 白秋沙鸭

(5/14 10 16)

- 3 redheads in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.
- 1 redhead in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 21/1/2012.
- 1 redhead in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.
- 1 redhead in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012.
- 10 in the Yalu Jiang near Dandong on the 26/1/2012. Two of these were in the Yalu Jiang when viewed from near the Crowne Plaza hotel on Binjiang Zhong Lu in Dandong city while the other eight were at Taiping Wan.

**COMMON MERGANSER** *Mergus merganser* 普通秋沙鸭



**(9/14 157 283)**

157 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.  
1 female near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.  
3 on the sea off the eastern point off the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.  
3 redheads on the sea at Km 323.2 (10 kilometres north of the Dalujia river) on the Bin Hai Gong Lu, Pulandian on the 20/1/2012.  
42, 35 males & just seven females, in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 21/1/2012.  
26 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.  
21 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012.  
29 in the Yalu Jiang near Dandong on the 26/1/2012. Eight of these were in the Yalu Jiang when viewed from near the Crowne Plaza hotel on Binjiang Zhong Lu in Dandong city; one other was near Taolichun; 12 more were seen between the Hushan Great Wall & Taiping Wan while the remaining eight were at Taiping Wan itself.  
1 female near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator* 红胸秋沙鸭**

**(7/14 236 304)**

20 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.  
17 on the sea off the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.  
6 on the sea at Km 323.2 (10 kilometres north of the Dalujia river) on the Bin Hai Gong Lu, Pulandian on the 20/1/2012.  
5 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 21/1/2012.  
7 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.  
13 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012.  
236 from the Zhuanghe to Shicheng Dao & Dawangjia Dao ferry on the 28/1/2012.

**LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* 小鸊鷉**

**(6/14 23 33)**

4 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.  
1 on a small ice free stretch of river near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.  
2 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 21/1/2012.  
2 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.  
1 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012.  
23 in the Yalu Jiang near Dandong on the 26/1/2012. Eight of these were in the Yalu Jiang were near Taolichun while the other 15 were at Taiping Wan.

**GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus* 凤头鸊鷉**

**(4/14 46 102)**

46 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.  
13 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 21/1/2012.  
16 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.  
27 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012.

**GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* 苍鹭**

**(5/14 7 21)**

1 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.  
6 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.  
1 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.  
1 immature near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.  
7 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.  
3 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012.  
2, an adult and a first-winter, near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.

**PELAGIC CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax pelagicus* 海鸬鹚**

**(2/14 70 84)**

14 flew east past the evening watch point off the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012. I saw one bird in the morning (it flew west at 07h29) while Tom & me watched 14 (nine singles & a flock of five) gradually move east in the 45 minutes between 15h52 & 16h37. Tom had seen a remarkable 98 here on the 13<sup>th</sup> January and, like most of our birds today, his were in the late afternoon & all flew east. Perhaps there's a roost site nearby?  
70 from the Zhuanghe to Shicheng Dao & Dawangjia Dao ferry on the 28/1/2012.

**WHITE-TAILED EAGLE *Haliaeetus albicilla* 白尾海雕**

**(11/14 25 113)**

4 immatures near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.  
7 immatures near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011. They were seen loafing on an iced river in the early morning with four birds, undoubtedly part of this earlier flock, seen about two kilometres upstream in the early afternoon.

7 immatures near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012.  
 5 immatures near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.  
 14, including one near-adult, near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012. Birds do not roost here and none were present when I arrived at 08h15. The first bird appeared at 10h00, 3 by 10h15, 7 by 10h40 and 14 at 11h10. There wasn't an obvious influx – but each time I scanned for them out on the ice there were more! Only two birds were actually seen arriving – and these came in together, arriving over the large suspension bridge way off in the north-eastern portion of the bay.  
 14 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012. These included a single adult – the first of that age group that I'd seen on this trip. There was already one bird present when I arrived at 09h00.  
 12 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.  
 2 on the edge of Dandong city on the 26/1/2012. They both flew north up river when viewed from near the Crown Plaza hotel on Binjiang Zhong Lu in the early morning.  
 1 near adult on the ice off Zhuanghe Port on the 28/1/2012.  
 25, mostly immatures but including at least one full adult, near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012. A marked increase from the numbers here just four days earlier. (Paul Holt & Terry Townshend). Probably a record count for China (Richard Lewthwaite in litt. 1 Feb. 2012).  
 22 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012. There was already one bird present when I arrived at 07h30 and another was flying-in. Subsequent counts were 13 at 08h45 and 09h10; 16 at 09h25; 17 at 09h55 & 22 at 11h15. A single adult bird was among the immatures.

### **CINEREOUS VULTURE** *Aegypius monachus* NT 秃鹫

(1/14 3 3)

3 flew low to the west near the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (ca.700 metres)(Bai Qingquan, Tom Beeke, Paul Holt & Terry Townshend)

### **EASTERN MARSH HARRIER** *Circus spilonotus* 白腹鸮

(1/14 1 1)

1 cream-crown besides the Dandong to Donggang road on the 28/1/2012. It was at kilometre post 40. An exceptional mid-winter record this far north! (Bai Qingquan, Tom Beeke & Paul Holt)

### **HEN HARRIER** *Circus cyaneus* 白尾鸮

(3/14 4 6)

1 adult male near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.  
 4 ringtails at kilometre 43.5 besides the Dandong to Donggang road on the 28/1/2012.  
 1 adult male, near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012. It was a different male to that seen on the 22 January.

### **EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter nisus* 雀鹰

(2/14 1 2)

1 over the Hushan Great Wall, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.  
 1 in the lower mixed conifer & larch woodland on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (220 metres)

### **EASTERN BUZZARD** *Buteo japonicus* 喜山鵟

(3/14 1 3)

1 perched juvenile near the Hushan Great Wall, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.  
 1 juvenile near Zhuanghe Port on the 28/1/2012.  
 1 adult flew high over Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.

### **UPLAND BUZZARD** *Buteo hemilasius* 大鵟

(2/14 5 8)

3 about 34 kilometres south of Dandong & near kilometre 1218 on the Danda Expressway on the 26/1/2012.  
 5 between Dandong & Zhuanghe on the 28/1/2012. Five of these were in Dandong with two separate first-years besides the Dandong to Donggang road (one at kilometre 43.5 & the other out ten kilometres further south). Two other singles were besides expressway G11 (at kilometre posts 1224 & 1233) while the only bird seen in Zhuanghe was a first-year at the Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng 'Relict Gull site'.

[In addition Tom saw one along the Bin Hai Gong Lu close to Zhuanghe on the 20/1/2012].

### **ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD** *Buteo lagopus* 毛脚鵟

(1/14 1 1)

1 flew west over Zhuanghe Port on the 28/1/2012. (Bai Qingquan, Tom Beeke, Paul Holt & Terry Townshend)

**COMMON KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus* 红隼**

(11/14 16 48)

5 singles around Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.  
3 singles along the coast between Zhuanghe & the Dalujia Steel Plant, Pulandian on the 20/1/2012.  
1 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.  
1 adult male near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.  
1 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012.  
1 adult male near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.  
16 around Dandong on the 26/1/2012. Two of these were close to the Dayanghe Qiao Marsh Nature Reserve, another six singles were between there & the Dandong exit off the Danda Expressway; one more was seen over the Yalu Jiang when viewed from near the Crowne Plaza on Binjiang Zhong Lu in Dandong city; another was seen close to the Yalu Jiang near Taolichun; two more were near the Hushan Great Wall; another two were close to Gulouzi xiang and the final two birds of the day were at Taiping Bay. (Bai Qingquan, Tom Beeke, Paul Holt & Terry Townshend)  
5 between Dandong & Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012.  
13 between Dandong & Zhuanghe on the 28/1/2012. Seven of these were besides the Dandong to Donggang road with four hunting over waste ground at kilometre 43.5. Five more were seen from expressway G11 between Dandong & Zhuanghe while  
1 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.  
1 adult male near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.

**MERLIN *Falco columbarius* 灰背隼**

(3/14 1 3)

1 hunting in the Pine Bunting fields near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011. (Tom Beeke & Paul Holt)  
1 at kilometre 43.5 besides the Dandong to Donggang road on the 28/1/2012. (Bai Qingquan, Tom Beeke & Paul Holt)  
1 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012. (Paul Holt & Terry Townshend)

**SAKER FALCON *Falco cherrug* VU 猎隼**

(1/14 1 1)

1 was seen from expressway G11 at kilometre post 1324 just south of Zhuanghe Shi on the 20/1/2012. (39°42.5'N, 122°55.6'E.) (Paul Holt)

**PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus* 游隼**

(4/14 2 6)

2 adults near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.  
1 adult near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.  
1 adult male near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.  
2 adults near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.

**SAKER or PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco cherrug* or *F. peregrinus***

1 bird, either a Peregrine or a Saker Falcon, near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.

**COMMON CRANE *Grus grus* 灰鹤**

(1/14 140 140)

140 in roadside fields near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011. (Tom Beeke & Paul Holt)

**HOODED CRANE *Grus monacha* VU 白头鹤**

(1/14 1 1)

1 with the Common Cranes near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011. (Tom Beeke & Paul Holt)

**LONG-BILLED PLOVER *Charadrius placidus* 长嘴剑鸻**

(1/14 1 1)

1 besides the Yalu Jiang near Taolichun, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.

**EURASIAN CURLEW *Numenius arquata* NT 白腰杓鹬**

(2/14 1225 1525)

1225 on the mudflats at the 'Relict Gull site' at Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng, Zhuanghe on the 20/1/2012. (Paul Holt)  
300 on the ice at the Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng 'Relict Gull site' on the 28/1/2012.

**BLACK-HEADED GULL** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* 红嘴鸥

(3/14 30 50)

20 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.

10 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.

19 adults in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.

1 adult near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012. Although I had seen modest numbers of this species nearby in Dalian Bay today's was the first sighting in Jinzhou Bay in six visits during the last 12 days.

**SAUNDERS'S GULL** *Chroicocephalus saundersi* VU 黑嘴鸥

(4/14 19 51)



8 adults in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.

8 adults near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.

9 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 21/1/2012.

19, 18 adults & one first-winter, in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012. (Paul Holt)

7 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012.

**RELICT GULL** *Ichthyaetus relictus* VU 遗鸥

(2/14 1730 1732)

1730 on the mudflats at Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng, Zhuanghe on the 20/1/2012. A record count for Liaoning – and indeed anywhere in winter away from the species' core wintering range along the coastal strip of Tanggu, Tianjin and Tangshan, Hebei. I noted the ages of 1006 birds today and this produced 70 first-winters (7%), just 30 second-winters (3%) & 906 adults (90%) and these proportions are roughly in line with those I used to see in Tanggu, coastal Tianjin during the winter months and the implication is that first-years move further south and east than older birds. Note that some second-winters were no-doubt overlooked among the adults – but not many, if any, first-winters would have been! Today's count represents 14.4% of the known world population of Relict Gull which stands at 12,000 birds (<10,000 mature adults)(Wetlands International. 2006. *Waterbird Population Estimates – Fourth Edition*. Wetlands International, Wageningen, The Netherlands). This could either be a previously unknown wintering site for this globally threatened species or alternatively it could possibly displaced birds from their regular wintering site along the western shore of Bohai Bay. Large flocks were first found wintering in coastal Tianjin in 2000 with up to 7880 counted at at Jingqu, Dagang on the 23/12/2005. Within the next few years however much of the Tianjin coastline had been reclaimed and birds shifted north to winter in coastal Tangshan, Hebei where shorebird researcher Yan Hongyan & her colleagues have counted over 8000 birds). However that area is also being rapidly reclaimed and its possible that many of today's birds were displaced from there. Personally I would think that this is a new site for Relict Gulls – and think that the Tangshan site is still holding large numbers of birds (for the time being at least).

2 first-winters in the Mew Gull flock on the ice at the Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng 'Relict Gull site' on the 28/1/2012.



**PALLAS'S GULL** *Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus* 渔鸥

(1/14 1 1)

1 first-winter near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012. Perhaps only the fifth record for Liaoning – but the fourth sighting at this excellent gull site!

**BLACK-TAILED GULL** *Larus crassirostris* 黑尾鸥

(5/14 110 143)

29 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.

1 adult in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012.

110 from the Zhuanghe to Shicheng Dao & Dawangjia Dao ferry on the 28/1/2012. A couple of these, including a slightly oiled bird, was right besides Zhuanghe Port while the others were near the massive concentration of floating buoys in the bay within about ten minutes of arriving at the Dawangjia Dao quay.

2 adults near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012. Although I had seen modest numbers of this species nearby in Dalian Bay today's was the first sighting in Jinzhou Bay in six visits during the last 12 days.

1 adult near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.

**MEW GULL** *Larus canus* 海鸥

(10/14 1598 2154)

73 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.

6 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.

1598 in coastal Zhuanghe on the 20/1/2012. (Paul Holt). Probably a record count for China (Richard Lewthwaite in litt. 1 Feb. 2012). Three of these were on the coastal mudflats viewed at Km post 229 on the Bin Hai Gong Lu (This site is about two kilometres south of the turning east to Zhuanghe Port); 10 were seen from the causeway out to Zhuanghe Port; 15 more were seen from the Zhuanghe Bridge; 20 nearby at Gili Dao. By far the day's highest count was a remarkable 1550 on the mudflats at the 'Relict Gull site' at Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng.

30 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 21/1/2012.

10 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.

1 first-winter near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.

11, including one very well marked first-winter *kamtschatschensis*, near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.

3 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012.

10 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012.

16 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012. Just three first-winters were racially assigned – two *heinei* & one extremely well marked *kamtschatschensis*. Both forms were photographed.



A marked first-winter *L. c. kamtschatschensis* near Jinzhou Landfill on 25 January.

345 in Zhuanghe on the 28/1/2012. 340 of these were at the Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng 'Relict Gull site' while the other five were seen from the Zhuanghe to Shicheng Dao & Dawangjia Dao ferry. Four of the latter, including two first-winter *heinei* & another first-winter that showed some characters of *kamtschatschensis* were in & around Zhuanghe Port itself, while the fifth bird, an adult was on Dawangjia Dao.  
 20, including eight first-winter *heinei* & one first-winter *kamtschatschensis*, near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.  
 31 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012. Mostly first winters there were 16 *heinei* & one well marked *kamtschatschensis*.

## GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus* 北极鸥

(7/14 2 10)

1 adult in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012. (Tom Beeke & Paul Holt)  
 1 second-winter near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012. (Tom Beeke & Paul Holt)  
 1 adult-winter in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 21/1/2012. (Paul Holt)  
 1 adult-winter in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012. (Paul Holt)  
 1 adult-winter near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012. (Paul Holt)  
 1 adult in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012. (Paul Holt & Terry Townshend)  
 1 adult near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012. (Paul Holt & Terry Townshend)  
 1 adult-winter from the Zhuanghe to Shicheng Dao & Dawangjia Dao ferry on the 28/1/2012. It was with most of the other large gulls that we saw from this boat near the massive concentration of floating buoys about ten minutes before we arrived at the Dawangjia Dao quay. (Paul Holt)  
 1 second-winter near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012. (Paul Holt & Terry Townshend)  
 1 second-winter, probably the same bird as yesterday, near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012. (Paul Holt)

## 'HERRING GULL ASSEMBLAGE'

(9/14 5000 31580)

225 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 21/1/2012. Quite a few of these were only seen flying high – perhaps drifting west towards Jinzhou dump?  
 3500 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012.  
 250 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.  
 4400 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.  
 4000 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012. Very few, if any large gulls roost here and there were only about 150 gulls present when I arrived at 08h15 – and almost all of these were bathing in the small river mouth immediately north of the sewage works). Birds slowly trickled in during the first 1.5 hours until about 09h45 when there was a marked arrival of birds from (I estimated that 800 were present by 10h00). Most of the new arrivals appeared from high and dropped on to the ice of the frozen bay to roost, loaf or preen.  
 5000 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012. (Paul Holt)  
 150 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012.  
 4000 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.  
 455 between Dandong & Zhuanghe on the 28/1/2012. Just five were seen in Dandong – and all were besides the Yalu Jiang south of the city. The other 450 were in Zhuanghe with 50 at the Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng 'Relict Gull site' and 400 from the Zhuanghe to Shicheng Dao & Dawangjia Dao ferry.  
 4000 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012. Birds were already starting to leave the area by 15h00 with long strings of them flying low to the ice, way out & heading north. Interestingly this is the same direction that I have seen the White-tailed Eagles arrived from in the morning.  
 2500 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012. 30 birds were resting on the ice when I arrived at 07h30 & had possibly roosted locally as it wasn't

until 08h15 that any other birds started to filter in. By 10h00 there were perhaps as many as 500 present & numbers continued to increase up until the time I left (11h30). Unfortunately most of them spent much of the morning way out on the ice - seemingly prevented from coming closer to the dump and shoreline by the incessant fireworks!

## HEUGLIN'S GULL *Larus heuglini* 乌灰银鸥

(8/14 55 254)

1 adult in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.  
8 adults with the other large gulls near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012.  
30 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.  
30 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.  
55 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012. (Paul Holt)  
40 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.  
50 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.  
40 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012. near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.

## VEGA GULL *Larus vegae* 西伯利亚银鸥

(10/14 315 1499)

1 adult in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.  
50 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.  
32 in coastal Zhuanghe on the 20/1/2012. Two were seen from the Zhuanghe Bridge while the other 30 were on the mudflats at the 'Relict Gull site' at Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng.  
10 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 21/1/2012.  
100+ near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012.  
15 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.  
300 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.  
250 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.  
300 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012.  
300 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.  
31 in Zhuanghe on the 28/1/2012. Just one of these was at the Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng 'Relict Gull site' with the other 30 being seen from the Zhuanghe to Shicheng Dao & Dawangjia Dao ferry.  
60 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.  
50 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.

## MONGOLIAN GULL *Larus mongolicus* 蒙古银鸥

(12/14 4500 26364)

100 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.  
3000 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012. One extremely distant bird had a wing tag on its left wing - but unfortunately it was too far away to read.  
20 flew east past the evening watch point off the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.  
1020 along the coast between Zhuanghe & the Dalujia Steel Plant, Pulandian on the 20/1/2012. 1000 of these were in Zhuanghe & 20 in Pulandian. Three of these were on the coastal mudflats viewed at Km post 229 on the Bin Hai Gong Lu (This site is about two kilometres south of the turning east to Zhuanghe Port); 60 were near Zhuanghe Port; 140 more were seen from the Zhuanghe Bridge; 20 nearby at Gili Dao; 750 on the mudflats at the 'Relict Gull site' at Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng. Just 20 were seen in Pulandian with 10 on the sea at Km 323.2 (10 kilometres north of the Dalujia river) on the Bin Hai Gong Lu, Pulandian and another 10 were in the river downstream of the Dalujia Steel Plant.  
200 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.  
3000 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012. Two wing-tagged adults were seen here today & quite remarkably they were in the same group of about 200 birds that I viewed at 16h00! Both had white rectangular tags with black characters on them. On the first bird these read AF over 02 while on the second bird they were AF over 63. I heard back from Andreas Buchheim the very next day - these two birds had been banded as adults two days apart (on the 23 & 25 May 2008 respectively) at Maloye More Island, Lake Baikal (53°04' N, 106°50' E) - 1936 kilometres from Jinzhou by Abu & Sergej Pyzhjanov. What's more Terry Townshend had also seen AF63 at Jinzhou dump the previous winter (on the 7 February 2011). Incredible!  
200 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 21/1/2012.  
3500 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.  
2500 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012. I saw another wing-tagged bird today - AF62. Like the two birds that I saw on the 21<sup>st</sup> January this bird had also been flagged at Maloye More Island, Lake Baikal (53°04' N, 106°50' E) - 1936 kilometres from Jinzhou by Abu & Sergej Pyzhjanov. Like AF63 it had been caught on the 25 May 2008.  
4500 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012. (Paul Holt). Probably a record count for China (Richard Lewthwaite in litt. 1 Feb. 2012). Two wing-tagged birds were seen again today (AF02 & AF62) & both were birds that I'd seen earlier. 1533 birds were aged today & this produced 325 first-years (21%), 63 second-years (4%), a miniscule number of third years & 1134 adults (74%).  
100 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 25/1/2012.  
3000 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.  
2 on the edge of Dandong city on the 26/1/2012. They both flew north up river when viewed from near the Crowne Plaza hotel on Binjiang Zhong Lu in the early morning.  
222 between Dandong & Zhuanghe on the 28/1/2012. Just two were seen in Dandong - and both were besides the Yalu Jiang south of the city. The other 200 were in Zhuanghe with 20 at the Xiaotangfu cun, Dazheng 'Relict Gull site' and 200 from the Zhuanghe to Shicheng Dao & Dawangjia Dao ferry.  
3000 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012. Three wing-tagged birds were seen today - Terry & me saw AB19, a bird neither of us had seen before, in the morning while I saw & photographed AF02 & AF63 in the afternoon. I had seen both of those earlier in January. AB19 had, according to Andreas Buchheim (in litt. later that same day) been tagged by him at Khökh Nuur, Ne Mongolia (49°32' N, 115°31' E) (a distance of 1271 kilometres from Jinzhou) as an adult on 26 May 2004.  
2000 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012. A sample count of just 272 birds yielded 118 (43%) first-years, 15 (6%) second-years, just five third-

years & 134 (49%) adults. A single wing-tagged adult was seen – AB58 & according to Andreas Buchheim (in litt. later that same day) it had been tagged by him at Khökh Nuur, Ne Mongolia (49°32' N, 115°31' E)(a distance of 1271 kilometres from Jinzhou) as an adult on 27 May 2004. This is the day after tag no. AB19, which I saw at Jinzhou Landfill on the 29 Jan. 2012 was banded at this same site!





**Table of wing tagged Mongolian Gulls seen at Jinzhou Landfill. Supplied by Andreas Buchheim - abu.cachellis@web.de**

Country	Code	Date	Locality	Coordinates	Ringed/seen by	Notes	Sex	Km from colony
Mongolia	AB19	26/05/2004	Khökh Nuur	49°32' N, 115°31' E	Andreas Buchheim	ringed as ad.	?	
China		29/01/2012	Jinzhou dump near Dalian, Liaoning	39°06' N, 121°40' E	Paul Holt			1271
Mongolia	AB56	27/05/2004	Khökh Nuur	49°32' N, 115°31' E	Andreas Buchheim	ringed as ad.	?	
China		07/02/2011	Jinzhou dump near Dalian, Liaoning	39°06' N, 121°40' E	Terry Townshend			1271
Mongolia	AB58	27/05/2004	Khökh Nuur	49°32' N, 115°31' E	Andreas Buchheim	ringed as ad.	?	
China		30/01/2012	Jinzhou dump near Dalian, Liaoning	39°06' N, 121°40' E	Paul Holt			1271
Russia	AF02	23/05/2008	Lake Baikal, Maloye More Island	53°04' N, 106°50' E	Andreas Buchheim, Sergej Pyzhjanov	ringed as ad.	M	
China		21/01/2012	Jinzhou dump near Dalian, Liaoning	39°06' N, 121°40' E	Paul Holt			1936
China		24/01/2012	Jinzhou dump near Dalian, Liaoning	39°06' N, 121°40' E	Paul Holt			1936
China		29/01/2012	Jinzhou dump near Dalian, Liaoning	39°06' N, 121°40' E	Paul Holt, Terry Townshend			1936
Russia	AF50	25/05/2008	Lake Baikal, Maloye More Island	53°04' N, 106°50' E	Andreas Buchheim, Sergej Pyzhjanov	ringed as ad.	F	
China		07/02/2011	Jinzhou dump near Dalian, Liaoning	39°06' N, 121°40' E	Terry Townshend			1936
Russia	AF62	25/05/2008	Lake Baikal, Maloye More Island	53°04' N, 106°50' E	Andreas Buchheim, Sergej Pyzhjanov	ringed as ad.	M	
China		23/01/2012	Jinzhou dump near Dalian, Liaoning	39°06' N, 121°40' E	Paul Holt			1936
Russia	AF63	25/05/2008	Lake Baikal, Maloye More Island	53°04' N, 106°50' E	Andreas Buchheim, Sergej Pyzhjanov	ringed as ad.	F	
China		07/02/2011	Jinzhou dump near Dalian, Liaoning	39°06' N, 121°40' E	Terry Townshend			1936
China		21/01/2012	Jinzhou dump near Dalian, Liaoning	39°06' N, 121°40' E	Paul Holt			1936
China		24/01/2012	Jinzhou dump near Dalian, Liaoning	39°06' N, 121°40' E	Paul Holt			1936
China		29/01/2012	Jinzhou dump near Dalian, Liaoning	39°06' N, 121°40' E	Paul Holt, Terry Townshend			1936

**SLATY-BACKED GULL** *Larus schistisagus* 灰背鸥

(9/14 4 20)

- 1, possibly two, first-year near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.
- 1 first-winter near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012.
- 1 first-winter near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.
- 2 separate first-winters near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.
- 4, three first-winters in the same large flock & a second-winter, near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012. (Paul Holt)
- 3, two first-winters & a second-winter, near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.
- 3 adults from the Zhuanghe to Shicheng Dao & Dawangjia Dao ferry on the 28/1/2012. They were with most of the other large gulls that we saw from this boat near the massive concentration of floating buoys about ten minutes before we arrived at the Dawangjia Dao quay. (Bai Qingquan, Tom Beeke, Paul Holt & Terry Townshend)
- 3 first-winters near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.
- 2, a first-winter and a second-winter, near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.

**HILL PIGEON** *Columba rupestris* 岩鸽

(1/14 35 35)

35 besides Zhuanghe Bridge on the 20/1/2012.

[In addition Tom saw 1 near the Red-breasted Flycatcher site on the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012].

**ORIENTAL TURTLE DOVE** *Streptopelia orientalis* 山斑鸠

(3/14 8 15)

- 5 around Dandong on the 26/1/2012. Two of these were close to the Dayanghe Qiao Marsh Nature Reserve; two more were near the Hushan Great Wall while the final bird was seen between there & Taiping Bay.
- 8 between Dandong & at Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (40-ca.500 metres)
- 2 at the designated factory zone at kilometre 43.5 south of Dandong on the 28/1/2012.

**LITTLE OWL** *Athene noctua* 纵纹腹小鸮

(2/14 1 2)

- 1 showed superbly well near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.
- 1 was seen close to the Dandong exit off the Danda Expressway at 07h45 on the 26/1/2012.

**EURASIAN HOOPOE** *Upupa epops* 戴胜

(1/14 2 2)

2 singles near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011. (Tom Beeke & Paul Holt)

**JAPANESE PYGMY WOODPECKER** *Dendrocopos kizuki* 小星头啄木鸟

(1/14 6 6)

6 near the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. Common & conspicuous. (420-560 metres)



**WHITE-BACKED WOODPECKER** *Dendrocopos leucotos* 白背啄木鸟

(1/14 5 5)

5, two pairs one of which was joined by a second & interacting male, near the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (480-550 metres)

**GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *Dendrocopos major* 大斑啄木鸟

(2/14 2 3)

1 in the Jinshitan Golf Course woodland on the 19/1/2012.

2, a pair, at the Hushan Great Wall, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.

**GREY-HEADED WOODPECKER** *Picus canus* 灰头绿啄木鸟

(2/14 2 3)

2 at the Hushan Great Wall, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.

1 near the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (470 metres)

**CHINESE GREY SHRIKE** *Lanius s. sphenocercus* 楔尾伯劳

(4/14 4 9)

3 singles near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.

1 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.

1 near the Hushan Great Wall, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.

4 singles in Dandong on the 28/1/2012. These involved two besides the Dandong to Donggang road & two others besides the G11 expressway between Dandong & Zhuanghe.

**EURASIAN JAY** *Garrulus glandarius* 松鸦

(1/14 5 5)

5 near the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (480-550 metres)

**COMMON MAGPIE** *Pica pica* 喜鹊

(13/14 40 198)

5 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.

10 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.

40 near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.

25 in the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.

3 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012.

2 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.

35 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.

10 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012.

10 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.

15 around Dandong on the 26/1/2012.

5 between Dandong & Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012.

22 between Dandong & Zhuanghe on the 28/1/2012.

6 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.

10 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.

**[AZURE-WINGED MAGPIE** *Cyanopica cyanus* 灰喜鹊

Tom saw 1 near the entrance gate to the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012].

**LARGE-BILLED CROW** *Corvus macrorhynchos* 大嘴乌鸦

(1/14 1 1)

1 over the ridge above the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (ca.650 metres)

**MARSH TIT** *Poecile palustris* 沼泽山雀

(2/14 10 18)

8 at the Hushan Great Wall, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.

10 around the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (420-570 metres)

**VARIED TIT** *Poecile varius* 杂色山雀  
(1/14 10 10)



10 around the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (430-550 metres)

**COAL TIT** *Periparus ater* 煤山雀  
(1/14 5 5)

5 in the lower mixed conifer & larch woodland on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (210 metres)

**JAPANESE TIT** *Parus minor* 远东山雀  
(4/14 38 62)

4, two pairs, near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.

38 in the Jinshitan Golf Course woodland on the 19/1/2012. Birds were seen in parties of between two & 14 birds.

10 at the Hushan Great Wall, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.

10 around the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (200-560 metres)

**CHINESE PENDULINE TIT** *Remiz consobrinus* 中华攀雀  
(2/14 7 8)

7, a party of five, a single bird that was seen & another presumed singleton that was only heard, near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011. (Tom Beeke & Paul Holt)

1 was heard at the Dayanghe Qiao Marsh Nature Reserve (Km 1257 on the Danda Expressway) on the 26/1/2012. (Tom Beeke, Paul Holt & Terry Townshend)

**ASIAN SHORT-TOED LARK** *Calandrella cheleensis* 亚洲短趾百灵  
(1/14 9 9)

9 together near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.

**EURASIAN SKYLARK** *Alauda arvensis* 云雀  
(7/14 150 189)

150 near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.

9 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.

1 was heard near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012.

1 was heard over the Yalu Jiang near Taolichun, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.

25 at the designated factory zone at kilometre 43.5 south of Dandong on the 28/1/2012.

1 was heard near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.

2 were heard near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.

**LIGHT-VENTED BULBUL** *Pycnonotus sinensis* 白头鹎

(2/14 7 8)

7 together around the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.

1 was heard between Jinzhou Bay refuse dump & the Jinhua hotel on Heping road on the 24/1/2012.

**BROWN-EARED BULBUL** *Microscelis amaurotis* 栗耳短脚鹎

(3/14 9 19)

4 around the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012. Birds were seen at four or five sites within the sprawling golf course. Most encounters were with a pair

of birds though I had one sighting of four together. It's quite likely that more than four birds were involved.

9 near Dandong on the 26/1/2012. Five of these were at the Hushan Great Wall while the other four were at Taiping Bay.

8 around the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (460-550 metres)

**NORTHERN LONG-TAILED TIT** *Aegithalos caudatus* 银喉长尾山雀

(1/14 5 5)

5, a party of three & a separate pair, around the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (420 & 450 metres)

**VINOUS-THROATED PARROTBILL** *Sinosuthora webbiana* 棕头鸦雀

(1/14 15 15)

15 around the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.

**CHINESE HILL BABBLER** *Rhopophilus pekinensis* 山鹪

(4/14 4 7)

1 was heard near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.

4 around the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.

1 was heard near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012.

1 at the Hushan Great Wall, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.

**GOLDCREST** *Regulus regulus* 戴菊

(1/14 4 4)

4 in the lower mixed conifer & larch woodland on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (200 metres)

**EURASIAN WREN** *Troglodytes troglodytes* 鹪鹩

(1/14 1 1)

1 was heard near the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (560 metres)

**EURASIAN NUTHATCH** *Sitta europaea* 普通啄木鸟

(1/14 12 12)

12 near the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (420-570 metres)



**RED-THROATED THRUSH** *Turdus ruficollis* 赤颈鸫

(1/14 1 1)

1 loosely associating with the Naumann's Thrushes, near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.

**NAUMANN'S THRUSH** *Turdus naumanni* 红尾鸫

(3/14 7 13)

4 near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.

7 around the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.

2 singles near Dandong on the 26/1/2012. One of these was near Taolichun while the other was at the Hushan Great Wall.

**NAUMANN'S or DUSKY THRUSH** *Turdus naumanni* or *T. eunomus*

1 near the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (430 metres)

**DUSKY X NAUMANN'S THRUSH hybrid** *Turdus naumanni* x *T. eunomus*

1 at the Hushan Great Wall, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.

**[ORANGE-FLANKED BLUETAIL** *Tarsiger cyanurus* 红胁蓝尾鸫

1 bird, possibly this species, was heard below the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (480 metres)]

**DAURIAN REDSTART** *Phoenicurus aureoreus* 北红尾鸫

(4/14 3 7)

3 singles, two males & a female, around the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.

1 female near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012.

1 was heard near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.

2 at the Hushan Great Wall, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.

**RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula parva* 红胸姬鸫

(1/14 1 1)

1 first-winter in the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012. (Paul Holt). Found at about 08h30 it was watched for about one hour. The first record for Liaoning & probably only the sixth or seventh for mainland China. (Photographed). Unfortunately it could not be found in the evening when Tom returned. Today's follows close on the heels of another that I was fortunate enough to identify – a first winter in Beijing Botanical Gardens that had been present from mid-December 2011 & I saw on the 1 January 2012.



**EURASIAN TREE SPARROW** *Passer montanus* 麻雀

(14/14 220 765)

5 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 17/1/2012.

20 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.

50 near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.

10 around the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.

110 on Gili Dao, Zhuanghe on the 20/1/2012.

80 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012.

5 in Dalian Bay when viewed from the Kaifaqu Binhai Lu on the 22/1/2012.

100 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.

30 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.

40 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012.

30 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.

20 at the Hushan Great Wall, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.

5 in Dandong city on the 27/1/2012.

20 besides the Dandong to Donggang road on the 28/1/2012.

20 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.

220 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.

**ALPINE ACCENTOR** *Prunella collaris* 领岩鹀

(1/14 5 5)

5 at the Hushan Great Wall, Dandong on the 26/1/2012. (Bai Qingquan, Tom Beeke, Paul Holt & Terry Townshend)

**SIBERIAN ACCENTOR** *Prunella montanella* 棕眉山岩鹀

(4/14 6 14)

1 was heard in light scrub near the Red-breasted Flycatcher around the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.

6 at the Hushan Great Wall, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.

6 in scrub right besides the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (540 metres)

1 was heard at the designated factory zone at kilometre 43.5 south of Dandong on the 28/1/2012.

**WHITE WAGTAIL** *Motacilla alba* 白鹡鸰

(8/14 7 19)

1 was heard near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.

2 'East Siberian Wagtails' *M. a. ocularis* in a small free flowing river near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012.

3 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012. Two were seen well enough to racially assign & one of these was an 'East Siberian Wagtail' *M. a. ocularis* while the other was a 'Black-backed Wagtail' *M. a. lugens*.

7 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012. Only two birds were seen well enough to racially assign &, as yesterday, one was an 'East Siberian Wagtail' *M. a. ocularis* while the other was a 'Black-backed Wagtail' *M. a. lugens*. (Paul Holt). The best sites for them were the sewage works and the small river channel immediately to the north. *lugens* was previously believed to winter south of the Yangtze in China but two birds, found in Beijing in December 2011 remained in to January.

2 were heard near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012.

1 was heard near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.

2 flew over Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.

1 *lugens* near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012. (Paul Holt)

**BUFF-BELLIED PIPIT** *Anthus rubescens japonicus* 黄腹鹀

(2/14 2 4)

2 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.

2 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012.

**WATER PIPIT** *Anthus spinoletta* 水鹀

(6/14 1 6)

1 was heard in a small free flowing river near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 21/1/2012.

1 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.

1 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012.

1 was heard near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.

1 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.

1 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.

**BRAMBLING** *Fringilla montifringilla* 燕雀

(1/14 1 1)

1 was heard below the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (450 metres)

**GREY-CAPPED GREENFINCH** *Carduelis sinica* 金翅雀

(3/14 4 6)

1 was heard near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 22/1/2012.

1 was heard near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.

4 at the Hushan Great Wall, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.

**COMMON ROSEFINCH** *Carpodacus erythrinus* 普通朱雀

(1/14 1 1)

1 in light woodland on the edge of the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012. A surprising mid-winter record. (Paul Holt).

**PINE BUNTING** *Emberiza leucocephalos* 白头鹀

(1/14 130 130)



130 in a single flock near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011. (Tom Beeke & Paul Holt).

**MEADOW BUNTING** *Emberiza cioides* 三道眉草鹀

(3/14 6 10)

2 loosely associating with the Pine Bunting flock near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.

2 on Gili Dao, Zhuanghe on the 20/1/2012.

6 at the Hushan Great Wall, Dandong on the 26/1/2012.

**RUSTIC BUNTING** *Emberiza rustica* 田鹀

(1/14 10 10)

10, with the Yellow-throated Buntings, on the edge of an orchard close to Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.

**YELLOW-THROATED BUNTING** *Emberiza elegans* 黄喉鹀

(5/14 35 87)

20, with the Rustic Buntings, on the edge of an orchard close to Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.

35 around the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012. around the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.

31 near Dandong on the 26/1/2012. Just one was at the Dayanghe Qiao Marsh Nature Reserve (Km 1257 on the Danda Expressway) while the other 30 were at the Hushan Great Wall.

10 in the lower mixed conifer & larch woodland on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (190-220 metres)

1 at the designated factory zone at kilometre 43.5 south of Dandong on the 28/1/2012.

**BLACK-FACED BUNTING** *Emberiza spodocephala* 灰头鹀

(1/14 1 1)

1 female around the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012. (Tom Beeke & Paul Holt). Perhaps the first winter record for Liaoning.

**PALLAS'S BUNTING** *Emberiza pallasi* 苇鹀

(10/14 90 252)

1 was heard near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 17/1/2012.

70 near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011.

2 single were around the Jinshitan Golf Course, Jinzhouqu on the 19/1/2012.

30 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.

10 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 24/1/2012.

2 were heard near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 25/1/2012.

6 were heard at the Dayanghe Qiao Marsh Nature Reserve (Km 1257 on the Danda Expressway) on the 26/1/2012.

90 besides the Dandong to Donggang road on the 28/1/2012. These included a flock of 70 that flew up high out of waste ground when flushed by a Hen Harrier at kilometre 43.5.

1 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 29/1/2012.

40 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.

**OCHRE-RUMPED BUNTING** *Emberiza yessoensis* NT 红颈苇鹀

(1/14 51 51)

51 near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011. There were eight at the first site we visited today & a remarkable 43 in a modest (600 metre by 400 metre) reed bed at near Sanlou xian (39°35.3'N, 121°34.2'E.). (Tom Beeke & Paul Holt)



**REED BUNTING** *Emberiza schoeniclus* 芦鹀

(5/14 6 12)

2 near Santai cun, Wafangdian on the 18/1/2011. There were two together at the first bunting site, & a single where most of the Ochre-rumped Buntings were.  
6 near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 23/1/2012.

1 was heard at the Dayanghe Qiao Marsh Nature Reserve (Km 1257 on the Danda Expressway) on the 26/1/2012.

2 singles were heard besides the Dandong to Donggang road on the 28/1/2012. The first was heard at kilometre post 40.

1 was heard near Jinzhou Bay refuse dump on the 30/1/2012.

**MAMMALS, REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS**

**RED SQUIRREL** *Sciurus vulgaris*

Terry saw 1 near the Chaoyang Temple on Fenghuangshan on the 27/1/2012. (560 metres)

Paul Holt Clitheroe 3 February 2012