

Birding

FUZHOU

FUJIAN

CHINA

31 OCTOBER

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2008

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Thursday 30 October 2008. Flew from Guangzhou to Fuzhou.

As on all of my recent trips in China I travelled with the ground agent I use for all the Sunbird/Wings tours that I lead in China. I have absolutely no hesitation in recommending her, Wang Qingyu as a guide, ground agent and all-round fixer. She can be contacted at –

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After finishing a short trip to Jiulianshan NFP, Jiangxi Qingyu & me caught the 10:55hrs Xiamen Airlines flight from Guangzhou to Fuzhou, the largest city in Fujian Province, southeast China. The flight took just 67 minutes and was followed by a 20 minute taxi ride to the 3-star Rong Cheng Hotel, Lufong Road, Jinfeng town, Changle, Fujian. Tel.: 0591 28568588 Fax.: 0591 28568333. The taxi cost 60 yuan (apparently no drivers in Fuzhou will use the metre & asking prices ranged from 120 down to 60 yuan for this short trip). Rooms at the Rong Cheng Hotel cost 198/night and were clean & fairly well equipped with an en suite bathroom, a TV that supported the English language channel CCTV 9 and complementary internet access. Note that further away in Fuzhou city there are at least two five star hotels – one being a Shangri-la. The latter was offering weekend rooms for 830 yuan/night including two complementary breakfasts.

With a population of 6.5 million Fuzhou holds considerable political, economic and cultural sway as the region's largest city. Fuzhou is apparently known for its many hot springs and banyan trees that dot the landscape.

Fuzhou city is very easy to reach – there are perhaps eight flights every day to/from Shanghai, at least one a day to/from Guangzhou & others to Hong Kong & Beijing.

There was a bird race in Changle county this weekend – the first Chinese bird race that we'd attended. Organised by the local chapter of the Fujian Bird Watching Society and in particular by Yang Jing with the help of Chen Lin & others and jointly sponsored by the Changle Forestry Department & Swarovski (Hong Kong) Ltd. it was attended by over 100 people including three guys from Taiwan and proved to be an enormous success.

Friday 31 October 2008. Late morning & early afternoon birding Shanyutan, Minjiang Kou, Changle.

Local birder Mr. Yang Jing picked us up at the Rong Cheng Hotel at 10:55hrs & we then had a short drive of about 10-15 minutes to where we transferred to a small fishing boat. We took this down a series of about 50 metre wide channels towards the mouth of a large river about one or two kilometres. He we climbed out & headed off to view the small spit at the river mouth.

Sun rise	06:09hrs
Sun set	17:21hrs

High tide was at 12:04hrs & we arrived just as it was at its peak and there were large numbers of shorebirds roosting on the sandy spit. These were mostly Kentish Plover & Dunlin with a lesser number of a wide variety of other species including five, possibly six, Spoon-billed Sandpipers. We spent just over three hours there – nowhere near long enough to give this excellent site the justice that it deserved – it would have been nice to have arrived a couple of hours earlier & to have stayed at least another 1.5hrs but we weren't able to choose. The shorebirds dispersed after about 2.5hrs heading out to feed as soon as the intertidal mudflats were exposed. The 'spooners' were very, very easy to find among both the roosting and feeding birds. Because the tide had dropped when we came back we were forced to use a different & much smaller boat – and even then this involved wading out about 10 metres in 20 cm deep mud at either end of the boat ride.

Once back at the tiny harbour we returned to the hotel, but in a different vehicle – this time driven by another local birder, Chen Lin.

Some great bird photos taken in the Minjiang Estuary in summer 2008 by several Chinese photographers can be seen on the Fujian Bird Watching Society website. All the text is in Chinese -

<http://www.fjbirds.org/bbs/viewthread.php?tid=8998&extra=page%3D1>

<http://www.fjbirds.org/bbs/viewthread.php?tid=8984&extra=page%3D1>

Spoon-billed Sandpiper at Shanyutan, Changle, Fujian.

Zhang Lin did a considerable amount of birding at Rudong, Jiangsu during the autumn of 2008 and saw 11 different Spoon-billed Sandpipers there during this period – six together in early August, four together on one date in September and the last bird in early October. However the species seems to be unpredictable at Rudong. They seem to be regular at Shanyutan however and this site is undoubtedly the most reliable in the whole of China, and probably one of the best anywhere, for the increasingly threatened species.

The global population of this Critically Endangered species has crashed recently & is now estimated at between 150-300 pairs (Zockler quoted in Moores N., Rogers D., Kim R-H., Hassell C., Gosbell K., Kim S-A & Park M-N. 2008. The 2006-2008 Saemangeum Shorebird Monitoring Program Report. Birds Korea publication, Busan. 2008).

I thought that the coastal habitat at Shanyutan was unusual – there were extensive areas of mudflat exposed at low tide, but the mud was very sandy and its irregular surface heavily corrugated. As the tide declined the Spoon-billed Sandpipers were among the first shorebirds to start feeding around the edges of the (numerous) small, shallow pools that were left. The sandy substrate was undoubtedly also the reason why this area is also the best in China for Sanderling.

As is often the case in China it was difficult to get specific information from the local birders but, according to Yang Jing & Chen Lin, Spoon-billed Sandpiper, is dependably present throughout the winter. They said that the first birds return in early September and remaining until early May. December and January are apparently the best and most dependable months. However they later told us that the five birds I saw today were the first ones of this winter period!

According to the various China Bird Reports there have been the following sightings at Shanyutan –

China Bird Report 2004:

Fujian: Two at Min Jiang river mouth wetland of Fuzhou on 28 October [FJBWS].

China Bird Report 2006:

Fujian: One at Jujiang, Nan'an on 8-9 Apr. [HZY] and one at Shanyutan, Changle on 5 Nov. [HZY].

China Bird Report 2007:

There were just two sightings at Shanyutan that year - one on 31 March [ZYu] and an impressive eight on 13 November [NGH & CLin]. This must have been a mistake however as Chen Lin told us himself that he saw 13 birds there on 21 November 2007.

Chinese Crested Tern at Shanyutan, Changle, Fujian

A note posted on the Oriental Birding egroup 'Chinese Crested Terns this summer in Fujian Province, China' posted by John & Jemi Holmes (johnjemi@netvigator.com) on 4 July 2008 after a successful twitch gave a brief account of the recent history of Chinese Crested Tern. They noted that OBC Bulletin 32 described the rediscovery of this species in the summer of 2000, by researchers on the Taiwan-controlled Matsu Islands only about 30 kilometres east of the Minjiang Estuary. They went on to mention that there is also a note in Birding Asia 2 about a Chinese Crested Tern being seen at Chongming Island, near Shanghai in September 2004 and that more details about the species breeding on the Matsu Islands are in Birding Asia 6.

Shanyutan is currently the only site in mainland China (& possibly the most easily accessible site anywhere including Taiwan) where this extreme rarity is regularly seen. According to Yang Jing & Chen Lin Chinese Crested Terns are typically present from late April until early September with mid-summer (mid-June to early July), when they're displaying, being the most reliable time of year. Birds don't breed here, nor have they been seen feeding in the bay but pairs have been observed displaying and copulating on several occasions. One bird, with some refuse (a plastic ring) attached to its bill was seen on the Matsu Islands and also in the Minjiang Estuary several times during summer 2008. Chen Lin, who spent a considerable amount of time in summer 2008 photographing the Minjiang Estuary terns (and won fourth prize in the BirdLife "2008 Rare Birds Yearbook" competition with a shot of mating Chinese Crested Terns taken here) speculates that that birds breed on the Matsu Islands but don't really spend much time there other than when incubating. Surprisingly they haven't been seen feeding in either area.

The relevant records from the various China Bird Reports are as follows -

China Bird Report 2004:

Fujian: Two at Min Jiang river mouth of Changle on 7 and 8 August [XMBWS].

China Bird Report 2006:

Fujian: At the Minjiang Estuary, Changle there were three on 17 Jun. and singles on both 1 Jul. [both JHD] and 8 Jul. [YangJ].

China Bird Report 2007:

Fujian: All reports were from Shanyutan, Changle where there were four on 11-12 May [HZY]; eight on 14 June [LJY], three on 2 August [LM], and singles on both 16 [WRQ] and 17 August [DWX].

'White-faced Plover' at Shanyutan, Changle, Fujian

I didn't see any at Shanyutan but believe that its been noted breeding at this site in summer (Geoff Carey in litt – early autumn 2008) and its possible that it is present in the summer months only.

Shanyutan, Minjiang Kou, Changle. (26°01.90'N., 119°38.03'E.) 11:15-14:45hrs

Literally meaning 'Eel Beach' we took the first boat at 11:15hrs & took the boat back at about 14:30hrs.

Swan Goose VU	17 on the sea at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Eurasian Wigeon	32 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Mallard	2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Chinese Spot-billed Duck*	240 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Northern Shoveler	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Northern Pintail	110 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Garganey	3 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Common Teal	170 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Eurasian Hoopoe	3 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Common Kingfisher	1 was heard at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
White-throated Kingfisher	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Common Snipe	2 singles at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Bar-tailed Godwit	17 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Whimbrel	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Eurasian Curlew NT	25 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Eastern Curlew NT	2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Spotted Redshank	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Marsh Sandpiper	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Common Greenshank	110 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Wood Sandpiper	1 was heard at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Terek Sandpiper	1 was heard at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Common Sandpiper	3 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Ruddy Turnstone	4 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Great Knot	15 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Red Knot	2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Sanderling	320 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Spoon-billed Sandpiper CR	5 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Red-necked Stint	12 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008. One with a black over white flag was noted.
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Dunlin	1200 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008. One with a green flag over a yellow band on right tibia & red over yellow over red bands on left tarsus was among these birds. It was banded in the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area, plot NW24 (70.54245 N, -154.06704W). at Barrow(?), Alaska, USA by Dr. Richard Lancelot, Shorebird Coordinator, Alaska Region, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Migratory Bird Management 1011 East Tudor Road, MS 201, Anchorage, AK 99503 (Phone: 907-786-3609, Fax: 907-786-3641 & e-mail: richard_lanctot@fws.gov 3) on the 17 June 2008.
Curlew Sandpiper	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Broad-billed Sandpiper	2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Eurasian Oystercatcher	2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Grey Plover	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Kentish Plover	2150 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Lesser Sand Plover	45 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Greater Sand Plover	10 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
'Herring Gull Assemblage'	2 very distant birds on the mudflats at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Osprey	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Black-shouldered Kite	2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Pied Harrier	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Great Cormorant	25 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Little Egret	30 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Grey Heron	25 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Great Egret	10 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
[Eastern] Cattle Egret*	1 bird, possibly this species, was seen distantly at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008].
Long-tailed Shrike	4 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Crested Myna	6 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Chinese Penduline Tit	2 were heard at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Light-vented Bulbul	47 birds in a single flock flew high out over the river mouth at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Plain Prinia	3 were heard at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Oriental Skylark	8 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	10 near the Rong Cheng Hotel, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Yellow Wagtail*	6, including two <i>taivana</i> , at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Richard's Pipit	5 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Olive-backed Pipit	2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Red-throated Pipit	1 flew over at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Grey-capped Greenfinch	15 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
bunting sp.	1 flew over at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Leg flagged shorebirds	
Rn Stint - black over white	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
Dunlin - green flag over yellow band on right tibia & red over yellow over red bands on left tarsus	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.

Saturday 1 November 2008. All day in Changle district.

A complementary packed breakfast was provided in the lobby at 05:45hrs & everybody involved in the 'Bird Race' headed out at 06:05. Local birder Chen Lin picked us up at the Rong Cheng Hotel & we then had a drive of about 25 minutes to the first of the four sites we visited today. Access to all of these sites necessitated considerable local knowledge – something Chen Lin had in abundance!

Today's high tide was at 12:42hrs.

1. Fields near Changle Golf Course (Changle Gaoerfe Qiuchang). (25°53.15'N., 119°35.50'E.). 5 metres asl. 06:30-07:25hrs

A sprawling area of open rice paddies and fish ponds.

2. Wenwu Beach (Wenwusha), Changle. (25°50.81'N., 119°34.86'E.). 4 metres asl. 07:45-11:35hrs

A large area of salt marsh, tidal river channels, grassy meadows with a few larger pools, some scattered bushes and areas of scrub. Most of the ducks (and all the interesting ones) were concentrated on a single pool slightly further south (25°50.33'N., 119°34.92'E.).

3. Shanyutan, Minjiang Kou, Changle. (26°01.90'N., 119°38.03'E.). 12:15-14:30hrs

Our second visit to this premier site was a bit shambolic today. Because of the bird race there were lots of birders already on the island when we arrived, the tide had just turned & was already starting to drop & we'd no sooner arrived on the island (at 13:10hrs) and started birding than we were told to return to the boat and head back, with everyone else to the 'mainland'. Since the local government were paying for the charter of the boats we felt we couldn't object – but I would have liked to have spent the rest of the afternoon here! The return trip was decidedly hairy – a small boat that shouldn't have taken more than eight or ten people was crammed with 22 of us – and every time anyone shuffled the tiny boat rocked violently. Several people got wet, but fortunately nothing too serious!

Once back on the 'mainland' we headed off to another viewpoint further up river. Again the route there was complicated but in essence we followed the sea wall/embankment up river for about three kilometres to a site where there was a large, two storey bird watching hide – this was the Changle Min Estuary Wetland Nature Reserve.

4. Changle Min Estuary Wetland Nature Reserve Hide, Changle. (26°01.85'N., 119°37.61'E.) 15:00-15:45hrs

An attractive area over looking some more inter-tidal mudflat & salt marsh. Unfortunately we could only get on to the lower, open access platform – a key (& possibly payment) is needed to get up on to the higher level – about eight metres up. Some other birders had seen 10 Black-faced Spoonbills from this site earlier in the day.

Common Pheasant	5 at Wenwu Beach, Changle on 1/11/2008.
Falcated Duck	3, one male and two females, with other ducks on a pool at Wenwu Beach, Changle on 1/11/2008.
Eurasian Wigeon	270 in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. These involved 120 in the Wenwu Beach area & 150 from the hide close to the river mouth later in the day.
Mallard	17 in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. These involved three males with other ducks on a pool at Wenwu Beach area & 14 from the hide close to the river mouth later in the day.
Chinese Spot-billed Duck*	235 in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. These involved 10 near the Changle Golf Course, 15 with other ducks in the Wenwu Beach area, 30 from the boat out to Shanyutan & 100 from the hide close to the river mouth.
Northern Shoveler	106 in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. These involved 96 with other ducks on a pool at Wenwu Beach area, four from the boat out to Shanyutan & six from the hide close to the river mouth later in the day.
Northern Pintail	155 in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. These involved 85 with other ducks on a pool at Wenwu Beach area, 15 from the boat out to Shanyutan & 55 from the hide close to the river mouth later in the day.
Garganey	7 in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. These involved one near the Changle Golf Course & six with other ducks on a pool at Wenwu Beach area.
Baikal Teal VU	3, one eclipse male & two females, with other ducks on a pool at Wenwu Beach, Changle on 1/11/2008. Apparently only the second record for Changle.
Common Teal	280 in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. These involved five near the Changle Golf Course, 110 with other ducks on a pool at Wenwu Beach area, 35 from the boat out to Shanyutan & 130 from the hide close to the river mouth later in the day.
Eurasian Hoopoe	6 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Common Kingfisher	3 singles at three different sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
White-throated Kingfisher	5 around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Pied Kingfisher	3 at Wenwu Beach, Changle on 1/11/2008.
Spotted Dove	20 around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
White-breasted Waterhen	6 around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. These involved one near the Changle Golf Course, two in the Wenwu Beach area & three that were heard from the hide close to the river mouth later in the day.
Common Moorhen	2 were heard in the Wenwu Beach area, Changle on 1/11/2008.
Pintail Snipe or Swinhoe's Snipe	1 with a small party of Common Snipe near the Changle Golf Course, Changle on 1/11/2008.
Common Snipe	17 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Bar-tailed Godwit	10 at Shanyutan, Changle on 1/11/2008.
Eurasian Curlew NT	8 in the Shanyutan area, Changle on 1/11/2008.
Spotted Redshank	1 was heard over Shanyutan, Changle on 1/11/2008.
Marsh Sandpiper	65 in the Wenwu Beach area, Changle on 1/11/2008.
Common Greenshank	100 in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. These involved four near the Changle Golf Course, six at Wenwu Beach, 35 from the boat out to Shanyutan & 55 in the area near the hide close to the river mouth later in the day.
Green Sandpiper	2 singles at Wenwu Beach, Changle on 1/11/2008.
Wood Sandpiper	7 in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. Six of these were on a small pool near Changle Golf Course & the seventh bird was on a similar drained fish pond near the hide close to the river mouth later in the day.
Terek Sandpiper	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 1/11/2008.
Common Sandpiper	9 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Ruddy Turnstone	1 on the beach at Shanyutan, Changle on 1/11/2008.
Sanderling	235 with other shorebirds at Shanyutan, Changle on 1/11/2008.
Red-necked Stint	43 in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. These involved four on the beach at Shanyutan and 39 on a drained fishpond near the hide close to the river mouth later in the day.

Temminck's Stint	11 in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. These involved one near Changle Golf Course and 10 on a drained fishpond near the hide close to the river mouth later in the day.
Dunlin	1000 in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. Almost all of these were at the high tide roost at Shanyutan.
Eurasian Oystercatcher	2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 1/11/2008.
Grey Plover	2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 1/11/2008.
Little Ringed Plover	6 on a drained fishpond near the hide close to the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on 1/11/2008.
Kentish Plover	2400 in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. Almost all of these were at the high tide roost at Shanyutan.
Lesser Sand Plover	40 in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. Other than three at Wenwu Beach all the rest were at the high tide roost at Shanyutan.
Greater Sand Plover	2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 1/11/2008.
Mongolian Gull	4 on the beach at Shanyutan, Changle on 1/11/2008.
Black-headed Gull	16 at Wenwu Beach, Changle on 1/11/2008.
Saunders's Gull VU	5 in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. Five of these (two first-winters and an adult) were on the 'waterfowl pool' at Wenwu Beach while the other two (a first-winter and an adult) were near the hide close to the river mouth later in the day.
Caspian Tern	5 in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. Four of these were on the 'waterfowl pool' at Wenwu Beach while the other was at the high tide roost at Shanyutan.
Whiskered Tern	2 singles in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. One flew high over the fields near Changle Golf Course while the other, an apparently pristine juvenile, was seen at the quay on the way out to Shanyutan.
Osprey	2 singles in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Black-shouldered Kite	6 in & around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Eastern Marsh Harrier	3 singles in & around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. Birds were seen at Wenwu Beach, from the boat out to Shanyutan & in the area near the hide close to the river mouth later in the day.
Common Buzzard	2 singles near Shanyutan, Changle on 1/11/2008. One was a dark adult, the other a pale juvenile.
Little Grebe	8 in the Wenwu Beach area, Changle on 1/11/2008.
Great Cormorant	130 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Little Egret	70 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Chinese Egret VU	1 with a small party of Little Egrets at Shanyutan, Changle on 1/11/2008.
Grey Heron	40 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Great Egret	40 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Intermediate Egret	6 in the Shanyutan area, Changle on 1/11/2008.
[Eastern] Cattle Egret	1 in paddies not far from Shanyutan, Changle on 1/11/2008.
Chinese Pond Heron	6 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Black-crowned Night Heron	1 first year near Changle Golf Course on the 1/11/2008.
Black-faced Spoonbill EN	1 near the hide close to the mouth of the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. Other birders had seen ten birds in that area earlier in the area.
Brown Shrike	1 near Wenwu Beach, Changle on 1/11/2008.
Long-tailed Shrike	12 in & around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Red-billed Blue Magpie	1 was heard near Wenwu Beach, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Black-billed Magpie	2 near Changle Golf Course, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Siberian Rubythroat	3 were heard in scrub near Wenwu Beach, Changle on the 1/11/2008. Apparently the first records for the Changle area.
Bluethroat	1 near Wenwu Beach, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Northern Orange-flanked Bush Robin	1 on the 'mainland' near Shanyutan, Changle on 1/11/2008.
Oriental Magpie Robin	5 in Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Daurian Redstart	3 singles around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Common Stonechat	9 singles around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Red-billed Starling	5 around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008 – four flew over the fields near the Changle Golf Course & one other was seen close to the hide close to the river mouth later in the day.
Black-collared Starling	8 around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Crested Myna	20 around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Chinese Penduline Tit	4 singles (three only heard & the last bird seen) around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. Birds were noted over the fields near the Changle Golf Course, in the Shanyutan area (two) and over the hide close to the river mouth.
Great Tit	1 near Wenwu Beach, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Barn Swallow	2 at Wenwu Beach, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Light-vented Bulbul	31 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. These included a flock of 23 that flew high over the quay near Shanyutan.
Yellow-bellied Prinia	5 around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Plain Prinia	5 around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
white-eye sp.	2 were heard in Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Lanceolated Warbler	2 singles were heard near Wenwu Beach, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Black-browed Reed Warbler	4 near Wenwu Beach, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Oriental Reed Warbler	3 around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. One was heard around the edge of the fields near the Changle Golf Course and two others were noted (one seen, one only heard) at Wenwu Beach.
Dusky Warbler	13 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Yellow-browed Warbler	6 singles were heard at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Masked Laughingthrush	2 distant birds were heard near Wenwu Beach, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Oriental Skylark	12 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	400 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. The vast majority of these (an estimated 350 birds) were in the paddies near the Changle Golf Course.
White Wagtail	25 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. Just over half of these (16 birds) were racially identified (10 <i>leucopsis</i> & six <i>ocularis</i>)
Yellow Wagtail*	20 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. Just under half of these (about eight birds) were racially identified and these involved two <i>macronyx</i> & six <i>taivana</i> .
Grey Wagtail	3 singles around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Richard's Pipit	15 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Olive-backed Pipit	12 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.

Red-throated Pipit	13 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. Birds were noted at all four of the main sites that we visited today.
Buff-bellied Pipit	1 flew over the Wenwu Beach area, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Scaly-breasted Munia	2 singles in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Grey-capped Greenfinch	120 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. The vast majority of these, 110 birds, were around the paddies near the Changle Golf Course.
Meadow Bunting	6 in the Wenwu Beach area, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Chestnut-eared Bunting	1 near the Changle Golf Course, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Yellow-breasted Bunting	4 in the Wenwu Beach area, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
Black-faced Bunting	45 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. The vast majority of these were in the Wenwu Beach area.
Reed Bunting	2 in the Wenwu Beach area, Changle on the 1/11/2008.

Sunday 2 November 2008. Midday Shanyutan, Changle district.

The was a post Bird Race meeting which we attended in the hotel this morning.

As soon as this was over Qingyu & me, together with Zhang Lin, left the Rong Cheng hotel, Changle in an auto rickshaw at 10:25hrs & arrived at Fushan Matou (Fushan Harbour) just ten minutes later (10 yuan). Yang Jing had already arranged for a boat to pick us up at 11:00hrs & our captain duly arrived right on time. It took us 15 minutes to reach the further of the two docking points on the 'island' and we arrived there at 11:15hrs – just over two hours in advance of the 13:21 high tide. It would have been OK to have arrived even earlier than this – a smaller boat could have negotiated the channels probably as much as two hours earlier – but we'd then have had to wade through 8" deep mud for about 10-15 metres once we'd reached the 'island'.

The shorebirds roosted at two sites – the larger one of the two was up on the top of the beach about a one kilometre walk from where the boat could moor and the other on a 200 metre long sand bank that was about 400 metres offshore. During higher tides the sand bank becomes completely submerged and all the shorebirds are then forced to just the one site. Today wasn't such a tide and large numbers of shorebirds remained on the sand bank throughout the time that we were present. These were too far away to search through properly but the ones roosting up the main beach offered superb views. Both flocks started to disperse as the tide receded & at 14:55hrs (1hr 40 minutes after the tide peaked) they started to move back out on to the mudflats in earnest.

Once back at Fushan Matou it was easy to find a vehicle to take us back to our hotel – there were several auto rickshaws in the area. We took a small minivan that shuttled around like a bus picking other people up. Cheap!

Shanyutan boat man	13774523946
Yang Jing	13705910162
Chen Lin	13960856868 or 13799370893 buguy@163.com 332622060@qq.com

1. Shanyutan, Minjiang Kou, Changle. (26°01.90'N., 119°38.03'E.). 11:15-15:20hrs

Eurasian Wigeon	50 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Mallard	2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Chinese Spot-billed Duck*	150 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Northern Shoveler	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Northern Pintail	15 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Common Teal	80 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Eurasian Hoopoe	3 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Common Kingfisher	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
White-throated Kingfisher	3 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Spotted Dove	10 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Common Snipe	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Bar-tailed Godwit	13 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Eurasian Curlew NT	51 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Eastern Curlew NT	2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Common Greenshank	75 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Terek Sandpiper	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Common Sandpiper	3 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Ruddy Turnstone	4 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Great Knot	15 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Sanderling	340 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Spoon-billed Sandpiper CR	10 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Red-necked Stint	14 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Dunlin	1600 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Broad-billed Sandpiper	4 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Eurasian Oystercatcher	2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Grey Plover	4 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Kentish Plover	2300 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

Lesser Sand Plover	45 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Greater Sand Plover	12 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
'Herring Gull Assemblage'	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Caspian Tern	4 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Osprey	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Black-shouldered Kite	3 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Eastern Marsh Harrier	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Common Buzzard	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Peregrine Falcon	1 juvenile repeatedly harassed the shorebirds at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Great Cormorant	30 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Little Egret	70 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Grey Heron	15 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Great Egret	15 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Chinese Pond Heron	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Long-tailed Shrike	2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Oriental Magpie Robin	2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Black-collared Starling	3 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Crested Myna	5 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Chinese Penduline Tit	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Light-vented Bulbul	3 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Yellow-bellied Prinia	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Black-browed Reed Warbler	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Oriental Skylark	4 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	30 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
White Wagtail	10, including two <i>leucopsis</i> and three <i>ocularis</i> , at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Yellow Wagtail*	15, including five <i>taivana</i> , at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Grey Wagtail	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Richard's Pipit	3 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Olive-backed Pipit	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Red-throated Pipit	3 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Grey-capped Greenfinch	10 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.
Black-faced Bunting	3 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

Monday 3 November 2008. Flew Fuzhou back to Beijing

We left the hotel at 05:35hrs & took our pre-booked taxi back to Fuzhou airport. Arriving 20 minutes later at 05:55hrs we found the entire airport open, but in darkness. The lights went on & staff started to arrive after 06:15hrs & we were able to check in at 06:25hrs - two hours in advance of our flight. Our discounted Air China flight back to Beijing left Fuzhou on time at 08:25hrs & arrived back in Beijing just over 2.5 hrs later at 11:10hrs. It cost 1050 yuan each.

BIRD REPORT

COMMON PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus*

5 at Wenwu Beach, Changle on 1/11/2008.

SWAN GOOSE *Anser cygnoides* VU

17 on the sea at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.

FALCATED DUCK *Anas falcata*

3, one male and two females, with other ducks on a pool at Wenwu Beach, Changle on 1/11/2008.

EURASIAN WIGEON *Anas penelope*

32 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.

270 in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. These involved 120 in the Wenwu Beach area & 150 from the hide close to the river mouth later in the day.

50 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.

17 in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. These involved three males with other ducks on a pool at Wenwu Beach area & 14 from the hide close to the river mouth later in the day.

2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

CHINESE SPOT-BILLED DUCK *Anas zonorhyncha**

240 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.

235 in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. These involved 10 near the Changle Golf Course, 15 with other ducks in the Wenwu Beach area, 30 from the boat out to Shanyutan & 100 from the hide close to the river mouth.

150 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

NORTHERN SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*

1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.

106 in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. These involved 96 with other ducks on a pool at Wenwu Beach area, four from the boat out to Shanyutan & six from the hide close to the river mouth later in the day.

1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

NORTHERN PINTAIL *Anas acuta*

110 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.

155 in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. These involved 85 with other ducks on a pool at Wenwu Beach area, 15 from the boat out to Shanyutan & 55 from the hide close to the river mouth later in the day.

15 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*

3 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.

7 in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. These involved one near the Changle Golf Course & six with other ducks on a pool at Wenwu Beach area.

BAIKAL TEAL *Anas formosa* VU

3, one eclipse male & two females, with other ducks on a pool at Wenwu Beach, Changle on 1/11/2008. Apparently only the second record for Changle.

COMMON TEAL *Anas crecca*

170 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.

280 in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. These involved five near the Changle Golf Course, 110 with other ducks on a pool at Wenwu Beach area, 35 from the boat out to Shanyutan & 130 from the hide close to the river mouth later in the day.

80 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

EURASIAN HOOPOE *Upupa epops*

3 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.

6 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.

3 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

COMMON KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*

1 bird, possibly this species, was heard at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008].

3 singles at three different sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.

1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

WHITE-THROATED KINGFISHER *Halcyon smyrnensis*

1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.

5 around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.

3 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

PIED KINGFISHER *Ceryle rudis*

3 at Wenwu Beach, Changle on 1/11/2008.

SPOTTED DOVE *Streptopelia chinensis*

20 around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.

10 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

WHITE-BREASTED WATERHEN *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

6 around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. These involved one near the Changle Golf Course, two in the Wenwu Beach area & three that were

heard from the hide close to the river mouth later in the day.

COMMON MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*

2 were heard in the Wenwu Beach area, Changle on 1/11/2008.

PINTAIL or SWINHOLE'S SNIPE *Gallinago stenura* of *G. megala*

1 with a small party of Common Snipe near the Changle Golf Course, Changle on 1/11/2008.

COMMON SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago*

2 singles at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.

17 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.

1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*

17 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.

10 at Shanyutan, Changle on 1/11/2008.

13 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.

EURASIAN CURLEW *Numenius arquata* NT

25 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.

8 in the Shanyutan area, Changle on 1/11/2008.

51 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

EASTERN CURLEW *Numenius madagascariensis* NT

2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.

2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus*

1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.

1 was heard over Shanyutan, Changle on 1/11/2008.

MARSH SANDPIPER *Tringa stagnatilis*

1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.

65 in the Wenwu Beach area, Changle on 1/11/2008.

COMMON GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

110 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.

100 in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. These involved four near the Changle Golf Course, six at Wenwu Beach, 35 from the boat out to

Shanyutan & 55 in the area near the hide close to the river mouth later in the day.

75 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

2 singles at Wenwu Beach, Changle on 1/11/2008.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*

1 was heard at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.

7 in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. Six of these were on a small pool near Changle Golf Course & the seventh bird was on a similar drained fish pond near the hide close to the river mouth later in the day.

TEREK SANDPIPER *Xenus cinereus*

1 was heard at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008].
1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 1/11/2008.
1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

3 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
9 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
3 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

RUDDY TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*

4 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
1 on the beach at Shanyutan, Changle on 1/11/2008.
4 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

GREAT KNOT *Calidris tenuirostris*

15 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
15 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

RED KNOT *Calidris canutus*

2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

320 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
235 with other shorebirds at Shanyutan, Changle on 1/11/2008.
340 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

SPOON-BILLED SANDPIPER *Calidris pygmaeus* CR

5 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
10 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

RED-NECKED STINT *Calidris ruficollis*

12 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008. One with a black over white flag was noted.
43 in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. These involved four on the beach at Shanyutan and 39 on a drained fishpond near the hide close to the river mouth later in the day.
14 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*

11 in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. These involved one near Changle Golf Course and 10 on a drained fishpond near the hide close to the river mouth later in the day.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER *Calidris acuminata*

1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

1200 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008. One with a green flag over a yellow band on right tibia & red over yellow over red bands on left tarsus was among these birds. It was banded in the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area, plot NW24 (70.54245 N, -154.06704W). at Barrow(?), Alaska, USA by Dr. Richard Lancelot, Shorebird Coordinator, Alaska Region, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Migratory Bird Management 1011 East Tudor Road, MS 201, Anchorage, AK 99503 (Phone: 907-786-3609, Fax: 907-786-3641 & e-mail: richard_lanctot@fws.gov 3) on the 17 June 2008.
1000 in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. Almost all of these were at the high tide roost at Shanyutan.
1600 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea*

1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.

BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER *Limicola falcinellus*

2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
4 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

EURASIAN OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*

2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 1/11/2008.
2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 1/11/2008.
4 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*

6 on a drained fishpond near the hide close to the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on 1/11/2008.

KENTISH PLOVER *Charadrius alexandrinus*

2150 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
2400 in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. Almost all of these were at the high tide roost at Shanyutan.
2300 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

LESSER SAND PLOVER *Charadrius mongolus*

45 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
40 in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. Other than three at Wenwu Beach all the rest were at the high tide roost at Shanyutan.
45 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

GREATER SAND PLOVER *Charadrius leschenaultii*

10 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 1/11/2008.
12 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

'HERRING GULL ASSEMBLAGE'

2 distant birds on the mudflats at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
1 juvenile or first-winter was seen distantly at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

MONGOLIAN GULL *Larus mongolicus*

4 on the beach at Shanyutan, Changle on 1/11/2008.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*

16 at Wenwu Beach, Changle on 1/11/2008.

SAUNDERS'S GULL *Larus saundersi* VU

5 in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. Five of these (two first-winters and an adult) were on the 'waterfowl pool' at Wenwu Beach while the other two (a first-winter and an adult) were near the hide close to the river mouth later in the day.

CASPIAN TERN *Hydroprogne caspia*

5 in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. Four of these were on the 'waterfowl pool' at Wenwu Beach while the other was at the high tide roost at Shanyutan.
4 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

WHISKERED TERN *Chlidonias hybrida*

2 singles in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. One flew high over the fields near Changle Golf Course while the other, an apparently pristine juvenile, was seen at the quay on the way out to Shanyutan.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
2 singles in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE *Elanus caeruleus*

2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
6 in & around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
3 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

EASTERN MARSH HARRIER *Circus spilonotus*

3 singles in & around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. Birds were seen at Wenwu Beach, from the boat out to Shanyutan & in the area near the hide close to the river mouth later in the day.
1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

PIED HARRIER *Circus melanoleucos*

1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.

COMMON BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*

2 singles near Shanyutan, Changle on 1/11/2008. One was a dark adult, the other a pale juvenile.
1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus*

1 juvenile repeatedly harassed the shorebirds at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

8 in the Wenwu Beach area, Changle on 1/11/2008.

GREAT CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

25 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
130 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
30 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

30 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
70 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
70 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

CHINESE EGRET *Egretta eulophotes* **VU**

1 with a small party of Little Egrets at Shanyutan, Changle on 1/11/2008.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

25 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
40 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
15 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

GREAT EGRET *Casmerodius albus*

10 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
40 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
15 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

INTERMEDIATE EGRET *Mesophoyx intermedia*

6 in the Shanyutan area, Changle on 1/11/2008.

[EASTERN] CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus [ibis] coromandus*

1 bird, possibly this species, was seen distantly at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008].

1 in paddies not far from Shanyutan, Changle on 1/11/2008.

CHINESE POND HERON *Ardeola bacchus*

6 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.

1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax*

1 first year near Changle Golf Course on the 1/11/2008.

BLACK-FACED SPOONBILL *Platalea minor* EN

1 near the hide close to the mouth of the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. Other birders had seen ten birds in that area earlier in the area.

BROWN SHRIKE *Lanius cristatus*

1 near Wenwu Beach, Changle on 1/11/2008.

LONG-TAILED SHRIKE *Lanius schach*

12 in & around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.

4 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.

2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

RED-BILLED BLUE MAGPIE *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*

1 was heard near Wenwu Beach, Changle on the 1/11/2008.

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE *Pica pica*

2 near Changle Golf Course, Changle on the 1/11/2008.

SIBERIAN RUBYTHROAT *Luscinia calliope*

3 were heard in scrub near Wenwu Beach, Changle on the 1/11/2008. Apparently the first records for the Changle area.

BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica*

1 near Wenwu Beach, Changle on the 1/11/2008.

NORTHERN ORANGE-FLANKED BUSH ROBIN *Tarsiger cyanurus**

1 on the 'mainland' near Shanyutan, Changle on 1/11/2008.

ORIENTAL MAGPIE ROBIN *Copsychus saularis*

5 in Changle on the 1/11/2008.

2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

DAURIAN REDSTART *Phoenicurus auroreus*

3 singles around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.

COMMON STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata*

9 singles around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.

RED-BILLED STARLING *Sturnus sericeus*

5 around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008 – four flew over the fields near the Changle Golf Course & one other was seen close to the river mouth later in the day.

BLACK-COLLARED STARLING *Sturnus nigricollis*

8 around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
3 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

CRESTED MYNA *Acridotheres cristatellus*

6 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
20 around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
5 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

CHINESE PENDULINE TIT *Remiz consobrinus*

2 were heard at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
4 singles (three only heard & the last bird seen) around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. Birds were noted over the fields near the Changle Golf Course, in the Shanyutan area (two) and over the hide close to the river mouth.
1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

1 near Wenwu Beach, Changle on the 1/11/2008.

BARN SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

2 at Wenwu Beach, Changle on the 1/11/2008.

LIGHT-VENTED BULBUL *Pycnonotus sinensis*

47 birds in a single flock flew high out over the river mouth at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
31 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. These included a flock of 23 that flew high over the quay near Shanyutan.
3 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

YELLOW-BELLIED PRINIA *Prinia flaviventris*

5 around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

PLAIN PRINIA *Prinia inornata*

3 were heard at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.
5 around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.

white-eye sp. *Zosterops sp*

2 were heard in Changle on the 1/11/2008.

LANCEOLATED WARBLER *Locustella lanceolata*

2 singles were heard near Wenwu Beach, Changle on the 1/11/2008.

BLACK-BROWED REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*

4 near Wenwu Beach, Changle on the 1/11/2008.
1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

ORIENTAL REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus orientalis*

3 around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. One was heard around the edge of the fields near the Changle Golf Course and two others were noted (one seen, one only heard) at Wenwu Beach.

DUSKY WARBLER *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

13 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus*

6 singles were heard at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.

MASKED LAUGHINGTHRUSH *Garrulax perspicillatus*

2 distant birds were heard near Wenwu Beach, Changle on the 1/11/2008.

ORIENTAL SKYLARK *Alauda gulgula*

8 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.

12 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.

4 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*

10 near the Rong Cheng Hotel, Changle on 31/10/2008.

400 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. The vast majority of these (an estimated 350 birds) were in the paddies near the Changle Golf Course.

30 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*

25 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. Just over half of these (16 birds) were racially identified (10 *leucopsis* & six *ocularis*) 10, including two *leucopsis* and three *ocularis*, at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla tschutschensis*

6, including two *taivana*, at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.

20 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. Just under half of these (about eight birds) were racially identified and these involved two *macronyx* & six *taivana*.

15, including five *taivana*, at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

3 singles around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.

1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus richardi*

5 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.

15 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.

3 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT *Anthus hodgsoni*

2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.

12 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.

1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus*

1 flew over at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.

13 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. Birds were noted at all four of the main sites that we visited today.

3 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

BUFF-BELLIED PIPIT *Anthus rubescens japonicus*

1 flew over the Wenwu Beach area, Changle on the 1/11/2008.

SCALY-BREASTED MUNIA *Lonchura punctulata*

2 singles in the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008.

GREY-CAPPED GREENFINCH *Carduelis sinica*

15 at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.

120 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. The vast majority of these, 110 birds, were around the paddies near the Changle Golf Course.

10 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

MEADOW BUNTING *Emberiza cioides*

6 in the Wenwu Beach area, Changle on the 1/11/2008.

CHESTNUT-EARED BUNTING *Emberiza fucata*

1 near the Changle Golf Course, Changle on the 1/11/2008.

YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING *Emberiza aureola*

4 in the Wenwu Beach area, Changle on the 1/11/2008.

BLACK-FACED BUNTING *Emberiza spodocephala*

45 at various sites around the Minjiang Estuary, Changle on the 1/11/2008. The vast majority of these were in the Wenwu Beach area.

3 at Shanyutan, Changle on 2/11/2008.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

2 in the Wenwu Beach area, Changle on the 1/11/2008.

bunting sp.

1 flew over at Shanyutan, Changle on 31/10/2008.

Paul Holt, Changle 2 November 2008