

Birding

FUZHOU,

FUJIAN

CHINA

26 & 27 AUGUST

2009

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Tue 25 August 2009. Flew from Beijing to Fuzhou.

As on all of my recent trips in China I travelled with the ground agent I use 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 –

Wang Qingyu
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Almost immediately after a Sunbird tour to Qinghai & Tibet, Qingyu & me caught the 16h15 Air China flight from Beijing to Fuzhou, the largest city in Fujian Province, southeast China. The flight was delayed 1.5 hours because of bad weather in Beijing and took just 2 hours 38 minutes. We were met at Fuzhou airport by Mr. Lin Chen (Forest) who then drove us the 20 minutes to the 3-star Rong Cheng Hotel, Lufong Road, Jinfeng town, Changle, Fujian. Tel.: 0591 28568588 Fax.: 0591 28568333. The better rooms at the Rong Cheng Hotel cost 380/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. Cheaper, but noisier rooms in the same hotel can be obtained for 198 yuan/night. 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 when we were last in Changle - in late October.early November 2008..

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 Shenzhen, Hong Kong & Beijing. There are also summer flights to/from Wuyishan.

We'd been to Changle just once before – in late October/early November 2008 when we attended a local bird race – the first Chinese bird race that either of us had visited. 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. It proved to be an enormous success.

Wednesday 26 August 2009. Shanyutan, Minjiang Kou, Changle.

We left the Rong Cheng Hotel in Lin Chen's vehicle at 05h00 & had a short drive of about 10-15 minutes to the fishing quay at Fushan Matuo 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.

Fushan Matuo – the quay where we took a small fishing boat across to Shanyutan. (26°01.29'N., 119°39.02'E.). 05h30

Shanyutan, Minjiang Kou, Changle. (26°01.65'N., 119°38.67'E.). 06h10-17h30

Literally meaning 'Eel Beach'.

Sun rise	05h38
Sun set	18h27

High tide

High tide was at about 15h00 & we arrived on a receding tide. I'd managed to get the tide times from four different sites off the UK Admiralty easytide web site -

<http://easytide.ukho.gov.uk/EASYTIDE/EasyTide/index.aspx>

– Mazu Dao, Dongluo Liedao, Chuanshi Dao & Mawei Gang,. The first three experienced high tide earlier than Shanyutan – by 1 hour & 43 minutes; 1 hour 12 minutes and 59 minutes respectively while Mawei Gang's tide peaked just 14 minutes later than that at Shanyutan.

Weather

It was a gorgeous, clear day today. Hot, with temperatures ranging from 28°C at the quay at 06h10 up to 34°C at Shanyutan by 12h30. There was a light breeze from about 10h00.

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 are 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 this 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. In 2009 a single Spooner was seen at Shanyutan as late as 21 May. December and January are apparently the best and most dependable months. However they later told me on my first visit to the area that the five birds I saw on the 31 October 2008 were the first ones of that winter period!

According to the various China Bird Reports there have been the following sightings of Spoon-billed Sandpipers 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 are normally absent for between several days and two weeks after a typhoon – and this makes them much less reliable later in the season. Chinese Crested Terns 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 of Chinese Crested Tern 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 on my first visit but it has 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.

Some useful phone numbers

Nov. 2008 Shanyutan boat man 13774523946

Yang Jing 13705910162

Chen Lin 13960856868 or 13799370893
buguy@163.com
332622060@qq.com

Lin Chen 13999370883

Garganey 1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Common Kingfisher 1 was heard at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
White-throated Kingfisher 1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Spotted Dove 6 between Changle & Shanyutan on 26/08/2009.
White-breasted Waterhen 1 was heard near the quay where we took the boat over to Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Common Snipe 1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
'Western' Black-tailed Godwit* 12 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Bar-tailed Godwit 6 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Whimbrel 120 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Common Redshank 8 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Common Greenshank 50 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Wood Sandpiper 2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Terek Sandpiper 130 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Common Sandpiper 4 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Grey-tailed Tattler 45 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Ruddy Turnstone 12 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Great Knot 15 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009. These involved at least nine juveniles and three adults.
Red Knot 6 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009. Five birds were seen well enough to age & they were all juveniles.
Sanderling 210 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009. Two leg flagged birds were noted and they both had an orange flag on their upper right leg, a yellow lower on their lower right leg & aluminium band their lower left leg. They had been flagged in the south east of South Australia (approx. 38°0' S., 140°0' E.) sometime since April 1999. The resighting was a distance of approximately 7431 km, with a bearing of 340°, from the marking location.
Red-necked Stint 20 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009. Three leg flagged birds were noted – two with orange and one yellow. The orange flagged birds were flagged in Victoria (Australia), (approx.38°0' S., 145°0' E.) sometime since January 1990. The resighting was a distance of approx. 7596 km, with a bearing of 336° from the marking location. The yellow flagged bird was from North-west Australia, (approx.19°0' S., 122°0' E. sometime since August 1992. The resighting was a distance of approximately 5014 km, with a bearing of 357°, from the marking location.
Temminck's Stint 1 was heard at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper 3 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Dunlin 1 adult at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Curlew Sandpiper 11 adults at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Broad-billed Sandpiper 2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Pacific Golden Plover 2 adults at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Grey Plover 12 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Kentish Plover 40 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Greater Sand Plover 60 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009. One bird had a yellow flag on its upper right leg and had been banded in North-west Australia (approx.19°0min S, 122° 0' E) sometime since August 1992. The resighting was a distance of approximately 5014 km, with a bearing of 357 degrees, from the marking location.
Oriental Pratincole 5 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Black-tailed Gull 110 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Relict Gull VU 1 second winter at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Gull-billed Tern 3 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Caspian Tern 1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Great Crested Tern 362 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009. One leg flagged bird was noted it had a white over a blue flag on its lower right leg. While there were about five or six birds present (on one of the very distant sand bars) when we arrived it wasn't until 11h25 (3 hours & 35 minutes before high tide) that significant numbers of birds started to arrive. Almost all of these came along the beach from the east. Even so my first post-high tide count only yielded 164 birds – and it appears that the bulk of those present arrived immediately after the high tide.
Chinese Crested Tern CR 1 adult at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009. We saw it extremely distantly and all too briefly on another offshore sand bank at about 10h00 & it didn't reappear until 15h40 about half-an-hour after the tide had started to recede. It was then among the large assemblage of terns on the last remaining sand bar. This is exactly what Lin Chen had predicted that the bird would do & exactly what it had done when three Chinese birders saw it yesterday – he told us that it would most likely reappear sometime between three & four pm. Yesterday's sighting was the first since hurricane Morakot struck Mainland China 17 days previously on the 9 August. Morakot had done massive damage in southern Taiwan where it was the strongest typhoon to have hit that island for over 50 years. According to the Fuzhou birders Chinese Crested Terns always disappear for between a couple of days and up to a week after hurricanes – but an absence of 16 days was remarkable.
Roseate Tern 1 adult at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Common Tern 640 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
'Eastern' Little Tern* 110 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Whiskered Tern 1 adult summer at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

White-winged Black Tern	20 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Little Egret	350 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Pacific Reef Egret	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Grey Heron	10 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Great Egret	2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
[Eastern] Cattle Egret*	10 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Chinese Pond Heron	8 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Black-crowned Night Heron	2, one juvenile & one adult, at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Long-tailed Shrike	8 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Crested Myna	10 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Barn Swallow	10 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Red-rumped Swallow	1 was heard at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Light-vented Bulbul	1 was heard at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Yellow-bellied Prinia	5 were heard at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Plain Prinia	1 was heard at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	2 were heard at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
White Wagtail	10, including three <i>leucopsis</i> , at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
Yellow Wagtail*	10 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.
[Grey Wagtail	1 birds, possibly this species, was heard at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009].

Leg flagged birds

Rn Stint - orange	2
Rn Stint - yellow	1
Sanderling - orange upper R leg, yellow lower R leg, aluminium band lower L leg.	2
Greater Sand Plover - yellow	1
Great Crested Tern - white over blue on R lower leg	1

Thursday 27 August 2009. All day at Shanyutan, Minjiang Kou, Changle.

We again left the Rong Cheng Hotel at 05h00 & had a short drive of about 10-15 minutes to the same fishing harbour (Fushan Matou [Fushan Harbour]) as yesterday where we had a picnic breakfast, found the same young student to carry our lunch & water supplies and then transferred to his father's small boat. We took this up this a series of about 50 metre wide channels towards the mouth of a large river about one kilometre from where we boarded. Here we climbed out & headed off to view the area.

In November 2008 the Shanyutan shorebirds roosted at two sites – the larger roost 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. However typhoon Morakot did considerable damage to the beach here in early August 2009, much of the sand bank was breached forcing most of the shorebirds to roost right along the high tide line.

Weather

It was another nice day today but it was hazier than yesterday with long-range visibility being significantly reduced. There was also much less wind &, not only was it significantly hotter, it felt much more so because of this lack of a breeze. 28°C at about 06h30 rising to a very uncomfortable 40°C by mid-afternoon! Fortunately there's a small shelter belt of trees on the island where we occasionally took cover and cooled down.

1.. Shanyutan, Minjiang Kou, Changle. (26°01.90'N., 119°38.03'E.). 06h10-17h30

Our second visit to this premier site was an even better one than yesterday. We saw two Chinese Crested Terns today – what was probably the same individual as yesterday was joined by another adult-looking bird but the latter also had darker, browner centres to its secondaries (visible only in flight) and was missing many median coverts (at least) on its right wing. The missing coverts created a pale panel right across the folded wing. Once again the Chinese Crested Terns only appeared on the falling tide!

With the pressure off the terns as of yesterday's sighting we spent more time generally birding today & concentrated on studying the shorebirds. This paid dividends and we saw, what Lin Chen later told us, were three new species for the area – two juvenile Asian Dowitchers, a juvenile Oriental Plover & a juvenile Little Stint. That latter is perhaps only the second juvenile to be recorded in coastal China.

Chinese Spot-billed Duck*	2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Eurasian Hoopoe	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Common Kingfisher	2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Spotted Dove	4 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
'Western' Black-tailed Godwit*	22 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Bar-tailed Godwit	4 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Whimbrel	100 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Eastern Curlew NT	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Common Redshank	12 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Common Greenshank	110 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
[Green Sandpiper	1 bird possibly this species, was heard at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Wood Sandpiper	3, two adults and a juvenile, at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Terek Sandpiper	315 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Common Sandpiper	8 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

Grey-tailed Tattler	20 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Ruddy Turnstone	32 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009. Most of these were adult males – and one colour flagged bird was noted – it had an oversized orange flag on its right upper leg with the characters 'JV' on it in black and a smaller blue flag on its lower right leg. According to Heather Myers of the AWSG (emails of 3 & 10 Sept. 2009) it had been banded at Whistler's Point at the north end of King Island, Tasmania (39°43'S.; 143°50' E.) on the 31 March 2009 & the bird had moved a distance of: 7726 km with a bearing of 337° since being banded.
Asian Dowitcher NT	2 juveniles at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Great Knot	33, 29 juveniles and four adults at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Red Knot	5 juveniles at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Sanderling	780 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009. Eight leg flagged birds were noted – five individuals had orange flags on their upper right legs, yellow flags on their lower right legs and aluminium bands and these had been banded in south east of South Australia (approx. 38°0' S., 140°0' E.) sometime since April 1999. The resighting was a distance of approximately 7431 km, with a bearing of 340°, from the marking location. Another two birds had orange flags on their upper right leg and had been banded in Victoria (Australia), (approx. 38°0' S., 145°0' E.) sometime since January 1990. The resighting was a distance of approximately 7596 km, with a bearing of 336°, from the marking location.. The eighth bird had a yellow flag on its upper leg & had been banded in North-west Australia (approx. 19°0' S., 122°0' E sometime since August 1992. The resighting was a distance of approximately 5014 km, with a bearing of 357° from the marking location.
Red-necked Stint	77, 70 adults and seven juveniles, at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009. One orange flagged bird was noted and it had been banded in from Victoria (Australia), (approx.38°0' S., 145°0' E. sometime since January 1990. The resighting was a distance of approx. 7596 km, with a bearing of 336° from the marking location.
Little Stint	1 juvenile at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Long-toed Stint	2 juveniles at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	15 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Dunlin	25 adults at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Curlew Sandpiper	14, 13 adults and one juvenile, at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Broad-billed Sandpiper	3 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Pacific Golden Plover	3 adults at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Grey Plover	10 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Little Ringed Plover	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Kentish Plover	500 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
'White-faced Plover'	3, one adult and two juveniles, at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Lesser Sand Plover	3 adults at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Greater Sand Plover	590 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009. One bird had a yellow flag on its upper right leg and had been banded in North-west Australia (approx.19°0min S, 122° 0' E) sometime since August 1992. The resighting was a distance of approximately 5014 km, with a bearing of 357 degrees, from the marking location.
Oriental Plover	1 juvenile at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Oriental Pratincole	3 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Black-tailed Gull	70 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Gull-billed Tern	2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Caspian Tern	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Great Crested Tern	200 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Chinese Crested Tern CR	2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Common Tern	500 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
'Eastern' Little Tern*	80 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
White-winged Black Tern	15 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Black-shouldered Kite	1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Little Egret	300 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Grey Heron	11 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Great Egret	4 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Intermediate Egret	5 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Chinese Pond Heron	2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Black-crowned Night Heron	5 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Brown Shrike	2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Long-tailed Shrike	4 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Barn Swallow	10 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Zitting Cisticola	2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Yellow-bellied Prinia	8 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Plain Prinia	4 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Oriental Reed Warbler	2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	25 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Forest Wagtail	1 flew over Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
White Wagtail	6, including two <i>leucopsis</i> , at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.
Yellow Wagtail*	100 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

Leg flagged birds

Rn Stint - orange	1
Sanderling - orange upper R leg, yellow lower R leg, aluminium band lower L leg.	5
Sanderling - orange upper R	2
Sanderling - yellow upper R leg	1
Greater Sand Plover - yellow	1
Great Crested Tern - white over blue on R lower leg	1

Friday 28 August 2009. Flew Fuzhou to Nanning, Guangxi and drove to Longzhou. Late afternoon Nonggang NR.

We had breakfast in our room and the four of us left the Rong Cheng Hotel, Changle at 05h30. It took just 20 minutes to drive back to the airport where we said goodbye to Lin Chen. The check-in desks opened at 06h30 and our 08h10 Xiamen Airlines flight to Nanning left the gate five minutes late and took off at 08h25. It took 67 minutes to reach Shenzhen, Guangdong where we deplaned, received a second boarding pass and re-boarded the same aircraft for a similar length (66 minutes) flight to Nanning, Guangxi. The latter flight lasted from 10h40 until 11h46 and once in Nanning we reclaimed our checked luggage, met Mr. Chen Tianbo and driver Mr. Zhao. Both of these guys work for Nonggang NNR.

BIRD LIST

Figures are given in two sets of parentheses - the first of these details how many days (out of a maximum of two) that particular species was seen in China. The second figure notes the highest day count & the third the total number of bird-days. Hence the entry for Common Kingfisher reads (2/2 2 3) - birds were noted on both of the two days, with up to two individuals on any one date & with a total of three bird-days.

Taxonomy & nomenclature mostly follow those of Inskipp, T. et al. *An Annotated Checklist of the Birds of the Oriental Region*. Oriental Bird Club. 1996. This same order & nomenclature is used, with very few exceptions, in the preferred field guide - MacKinnon, John and Phillipps, K. (2000). *A Field Guide to the Birds of China*. Oxford University Press, Oxford. Where the taxonomy differs from these two references an asterisk follows the scientific name.

We encountered three globally threatened species as defined by BirdLife International (2004) *Threatened birds of the world 2004 CD-Rom* Cambridge, U.K. BirdLife International as follows – CR = Critical; VU = Vulnerable; NT = Near-threatened. These species were – Asian Dowitcher (NT), Relict Gull (VU) & Chinese Crested Tern (CR).

CHINESE SPOT-BILLED DUCK *Anas zonorhyncha* 斑嘴鴨

(1/2 2 2)

2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula* 白眉鴨

(1/2 1 1)

1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

EURASIAN HOOPOE *Upupa epops* 戴胜

(1/2 1 1)

1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

COMMON KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis* 普通翠鳥

(2/2 2 3)

1 was heard at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

WHITE-THROATED KINGFISHER *Halcyon smyrnensis* 白胸翡翠

(1/2 1 1)

1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

SPOTTED DOVE *Streptopelia chinensis* 珠颈斑鳩

(2/2 6 10)

6 between Changle & Shanyutan on 26/08/2009.

4 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

WHITE-BREASTED WATERHEN *Amaurornis phoenicurus* 白胸苦惡鳥

(1/2 1 1)

1 was heard near the quay where we took the boat over to Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

COMMON SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago* 扇尾沙雉

(1/2 1 1)

1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

'WESTERN ' BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa* 黑尾塍鹬

(2/2 22 34)

22 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

12 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* 斑尾塍鹬

(2/2 6 10)

6 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

4 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus* 中杓鹬

(2/2 120 220)

120 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

100 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

EASTERN CURLEW *Numenius madagascariensis* NT 大杓鹬

(1/2 1 1)

1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

COMMON REDSHANK *Tringa tetanus* 红脚鹬

(2/2 12 20)

8 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

12 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

COMMON GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* 青脚鹬

(2/2 110 160)

50 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

110 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

[GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* 白腰草鹬

1 bird, possibly this species, was heard at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009].

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* 林鹬

(2/2 3 5)

2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

3, two adults and a juvenile, at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

TEREK SANDPIPER *Xenus cinereus* 翘嘴鹬

(2/2 315 445)

130 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

315 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos* 矶鹬

(2/2 8 12)

4 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

8 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

GREY-TAILED TATTLER *Tringa brevipes* 灰尾(漂)鹬

(2/2 45 65)

45 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

20 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

RUDDY TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres* 翻石鹬

(2/2 32 44)

12 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

32 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009. Most of these were adult males – and one colour flagged bird was noted – it had an oversized orange flag on its right upper leg with the characters 'JV' on it in black and a smaller blue flag on its lower right leg. According to Heather Myers of the AWSG (emails of 3 & 10 Sept. 2009) it had been banded at Whistler's Point at the north end of King Island, Tasmania (39°43'S.; 143°50' E.) on the 31 March 2009 & the bird had moved a distance of: 7726 km with a bearing of 337° since being banded.

ASIAN DOWITCHER *Limnodromus semipalmatus* NT 半蹼鹬

(1/2 2 2)

2 juveniles at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

GREAT KNOT *Calidris tenuirostris* 大滨鹬

(2/2 33 48)

15 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009. These involved at least nine juveniles and three adults.

33, 29 juveniles and four adults at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

RED KNOT *Calidris canutus* 红腹滨鹬

(2/2 6 11)

6 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009. Five birds were seen well enough to age & they were all juveniles.

5 juveniles at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba* 三趾鹬

(2/2 780 990)

210 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009. Two leg flagged birds were noted and they both had an orange flag on their upper right leg, a yellow lower on their lower right leg & aluminium band their lower left leg. They had been flagged in the south east of South Australia (approx. 38°0' S., 140°0' E.) sometime since April 1999. The resighting was a distance of approximately 7431 km, with a bearing of 340°, from the marking location.

780 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009. Eight leg flagged birds were noted – five individuals had orange flags on their upper right legs, yellow flags on their lower right legs and aluminium bands and these had been banded in south east of South Australia (approx. 38°0' S., 140°0' E.) sometime since April 1999. The resighting was a distance of approximately 7431 km, with a bearing of 340°, from the marking location. Another two birds had orange flags on their upper right leg and had been banded in Victoria (Australia), (approx. 38°0' S., 145°0' E.) sometime since January 1990. The resighting was a distance of approximately 7596 km, with a bearing of 336°, from the marking location.. The eighth bird had a yellow flag on its upper leg & had been banded in North-west Australia (approx. 19°0' S., 122°0' E sometime since August 1992. The resighting was a distance of approximately 5014 km, with a bearing of 357° from the marking location.

RED-NECKED STINT *Calidris ruficollis* 红颈滨鹬

(2/2 77 97)

20 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009. Three leg flagged birds were noted – two with orange and one yellow. The orange flagged birds were flagged in Victoria (Australia), (approx.38°0' S., 145°0' E.) sometime since January 1990. The resighting was a distance of approx. 7596 km, with a bearing of 336° from the marking location. The yellow flagged bird was from North-west Australia, (approx.19°0' S., 122°0' E. sometime since August 1992. The resighting was a distance of approximately 5014 km, with a bearing of 357°, from the marking location.

77, 70 adults and seven juveniles, at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009. One orange flagged bird was noted and it had been banded in from Victoria (Australia), (approx.38°0' S., 145°0' E. sometime since January 1990. The resighting was a distance of approx. 7596 km, with a bearing of 336° from the marking location.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* 小滨鹬

(1/2 1 1)

1 juvenile at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009. (Photo). According to Lin Chen it was the first record for the nature reserve.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii* 青脚滨鹬

(1/2 1 1)

1 was heard at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

LONG-TOED STINT *Calidris subminuta* 长趾滨鹬

(1/2 2 2)

2 juveniles at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER *Calidris acuminata* 尖尾滨鹬

(2/2 15 18)

3 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

15 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* 黑腹滨鹬

(2/2 25 26)

1 adult at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

25 adults at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* 弯嘴滨鹬

(2/2 14 25)

11 adults at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

14, 13 adults and one juvenile, at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER *Limicola falcinellus* 阔嘴鹬

(2/2 3 5)

2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

3 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis fulva* 金斑鸻

(2/2 3 5)

2 adults at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

3 adults at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola* 灰斑鸻

(2/2 12 22)

12 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

10 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius* 金眶鸻

(1/2 1 1)

1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

KENTISH PLOVER *Charadrius alexandrinus* 环颈鸻

(2/2 500 540)

40 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

500 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

'WHITE-FACED PLOVER' *Charadrius [alexandrinus] sp.*

(1/2 3 3)

3, one adult and two juveniles, at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

LESSER SAND PLOVER *Charadrius mongolus* 蒙古沙鸻

(1/2 3 3)

3 adults at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

GREATER SAND PLOVER *Charadrius leschenaultii* 铁嘴沙鸻

(2/2 590 650)

60 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009. One bird had a yellow flag on its upper right leg.

590 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009. One bird had a yellow flag on its upper right leg. This or these flagged birds had been banded in North-west Australia (approx. 19°0min S, 122° 0' E) sometime since August 1992. The resighting was a distance of approximately 5014 km, with a bearing of 357°, from the marking location.

ORIENTAL PLOVER *Charadrius veredus* 东方鹧

(1/2 1 1)

1 juvenile at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009. According to Lin Chen it was the first record for the nature reserve.

ORIENTAL PRATINCOLE *Glareola maldivarum* 普通鹧

(2/2 5 8)

5 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

3 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

BLACK-TAILED GULL *Larus crassirostris* 黑尾鸥

(2/2 110 180)

110 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

70 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

RELICT GULL *Larus relictus* VU 遗鸥

(1/2 1 1)

1 second winter at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

GULL-BILLED TERN *Gelochelidon nilotica* 鸥嘴噪鸥

(2/2 3 5)

3 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

CASPIAN TERN *Hydroprogne caspia* 红嘴巨鸥

(2/2 1 2)

1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

GREAT CRESTED TERN *Sterna bergii* 大风头燕鸥

(2/2 362 562)

362 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009. While there were about five or six birds present (on one of the very distant sand bars) when we arrived it wasn't until 11h25 (3 hours & 35 minutes before high tide) that significant numbers of birds started to arrive. Almost all of these came along the beach from the east. Even so my first post-high tide count only yielded 164 birds – and it appears that the bulk of those present arrived immediately after the high tide. One leg flagged bird was noted - it had a white over a blue flag on its lower right leg.

200 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009. One leg flagged bird was again noted - it had a white over a blue flag on its lower right leg.

CHINESE CRESTED TERN *Sterna bernsteini* CR 黑嘴端凤头燕鸥

(2/2 2 3)

1 adult at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009. We saw it extremely distantly and all too briefly on another offshore sand bank at about 10h00 & it didn't reappear until 15h40 about half-an-hour after the tide had started to recede. It was then among the large assemblage of terns on the last remaining sand bar. This is exactly what Lin Chen had predicted that the bird would do & exactly what it had done when three Chinese birders saw it yesterday – he told us that it would most likely reappear sometime between three & four pm. Yesterday's sighting was the first since hurricane Morakot struck Mainland China 17 days previously on the 9 August. Morakot had done massive damage in southern Taiwan where it was the strongest typhoon to have hit that island for over 50 years. According to the Fuzhou birders Chinese Crested Terns always disappear for between a couple of days and up to a week after hurricanes – but an absence of 16 days was remarkable.

2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii* 粉红燕鸥

(1/2 1 1)

1 adult at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* 普通燕鸥

(2/2 640 1140)

640 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

500 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

'EASTERN' LITTLE TERN *Sternula [albifrons] sinensis* 白额燕鸥

(2/2 110 190)

110 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

80 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

WHISKERED TERN *Chlidonias hybrida* 须浮鸥

(1/2 1 1)

1 adult summer at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus* 白翅浮鸥

(2/2 20 35)

20 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

15 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE *Elanus caeruleus* 黑翅鸢

(1/2 1 1)

1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta* 白鹭

(2/2 350 650)

350 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

300 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

PACIFIC REEF EGRET *Egretta sacra* 岩鹭

(1/2 1 1)

1 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* 苍鹭

(2/2 11 21)

10 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

11 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

GREAT EGRET *Casmerodius albus* 大白鹭

(2/2 4 6)

2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

4 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

INTERMEDIATE EGRET *Mesophoyx intermedia* 中白鹭

(1/2 5 5)

5 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

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

(1/2 10 10)

10 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

CHINESE POND HERON *Ardeola bacchus* 池鹭

(2/2 8 10)

8 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax* 夜鹭

(2/2 5 7)

2, one juvenile & one adult, at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

5 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

BROWN SHRIKE *Lanius cristatus* 红尾伯劳

(1/2 2 2)

2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

LONG-TAILED SHRIKE *Lanius schach* 棕背伯劳

(2/2 8 12)

8 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

4 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

CRESTED MYNA *Acridotheres cristatellus* 八哥

(1/2 10 10)

10 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

BARN SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* 家燕

(2/2 10 20)

10 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

10 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Cecropis daurica* 金腰燕

(1/2 1 1)

1 was heard at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

LIGHT-VENTED BULBUL *Pycnonotus sinensis* 白头鹎

(1/2 1 1)

1 was heard at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

ZITTING CISTICOLA *Cisticola juncidis* 棕扇尾莺

(1/2 2 2)

2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

YELLOW-BELLIED PRINIA *Prinia flaviventris* 黄腹鹪莺

(2/2 8 13)

5 were heard at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

8 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

PLAIN PRINIA *Prinia inornata* 纯色山鹪莺

(2/2 4 5)

1 was heard at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

4 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

ORIENTAL REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus orientalis* 东方大尾莺

(1/2 2 2)

2 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* (树)麻雀

(2/2 25 27)

2 were heard at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

25 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

FOREST WAGTAIL *Dendronanthus indicus* 山鹊鸂

(1/2 1 1)

1 flew over Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba* 白鹊鸂

(2/2 10 16)

10, including three *leucopsis*, at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

6, including two *leucopsis*, at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla tschutschensis* 黄鹊鸂

(2/2 100 110)

10 at Shanyutan, Changle on 26/08/2009.

100 at Shanyutan, Changle on 27/8/2009.

Paul Holt Beijing 1 September 2009