

**Day 1:** International arrival at Shanghai Pudong Airport. Drive to Chongming Island to meet our local surveyor Tengyi Chen (Tengteng). Chongming Island lies in the mouth of Yangtze River, and people living on the island have long history of hunting waders with a unique technique which can't be found anywhere else in China. Now they have abandoned this as the hunting activities are illegal. Some of them use this skill to help nature reserves to catch waders for banding. Tengteng has been learning from these old hunters for years and he will display this skill to us.

After this, we will go on driving to cross the Yangtze River to night at Rudong. We will do some birding if time permits before check-in.

**Day 2~3:** We will spend a whole day birding and night at Rudong. Rudong is in the southern Yellow Sea. In mid-April many waders will come from the south e.g. New Zealand and Australia. The southern part of Rudong has soft intertidal mudflat which attracts thousands of Great Knot in early April. Far Eastern Curlew is always one of the earliest to arrive. Especially, we'll look for the **Spoon-billed Sandpiper** which can be recorded as early as late March in northward migration. Rudong is recognized as one of the most important staging sites for this species in recent years. It's also important for **Nordmann's Greenshank**, Grey Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit etc.

The breeding Grey-headed Lapwing and Saunders's Gull always arrive in Feb.

Black-faced Spoonbill and the very rare **Baer's Pochard** are in migration and we may encounter a few.

Besides waterbirds, Rudong is also a hotspot for passerine migrants. Although it's still early for most of them, we can still meet some early ones and some wintering birds e.g. thrushes, buntings and residents including the endemic **Reed Parrotbill** and **Japanese Swamp Warbler**.

**Day 4:** After a morning birding, we will start to drive towards Lian yungang and overnight there for three nights.

**Day 5:** If weather permits, we will hire a medium-sized fishing boat for our pelagic trip towards Che niu shan Island. We may encounter a few wintering birds such as **Black-throated Loon**, and breeding birds such as **Ancient Murrelet**, **Streaked Shearwater**, **Swinhoe's Storm Petrel** and **Black-tailed Gull**. There should be some migrants on the island but due that it's guarded by Chinese army, we won't get onto the island.

If bad weather prevents us from doing the pelagic trip, we will visit coastal mudflat for waders. The habitat of Lian yungang's mudflat is different from Rudong's and thus attracts different waders. We often find one of the largest flocks of **Asian Dowitcher** here. Bar-tailed Godwit, Red Knot and Great knot are abundant. Spoon-billed Sandpiper and Nordmann's Greenshank are very rare here but we can still try our luck. On the mudflat or in some aquaculture ponds, we will look for gulls and terns including wintering **Relict Gull**.

**Day 6:** If we have done the pelagic trip on Day 5, we will visit coastal mudflat. If not, we will try to do the pelagic trip if weather permits.

**Day 7:** Land bird watch in the morning. Lian yungang has quite a lot of hills and we will try if we can meet some **migrating raptors**. After lunch we will drive to night at Nanjing to break the long drive from Lian yungang to Wuyuan.

**Day 8:** Morning birding in Purple Mountain, Nanjing. In China's long history, Nanjing used to be the capital for several dynasties. Many emperors chose to build their palaces and tombs in or near Purple Mountain. Thus it still has very good habitat with many big trees and is where one of our tour leaders, Zhang Lin, started birding 15 years ago.

In the afternoon we will drive to overnight at Huangshan.

**Day 9:** We will drive to Wuyuan city and overnight there for two nights. Wuyuan has very nice country side view in hilly areas with many old trees around villages. On the way we will stop at some birding locations including an old village which is home to Pied Falconet and many other woodland birds eg. laughing-thrushes, **parrotbills, babblers** etc.. Before we reach Wuyuan city, we will visit the breeding colonies of **Blue-crowned Laughing-thrush** (or called Courtois's Laughing-thrush). This bird has been lost for almost a hundred years and was rediscovered in Wuyuan only around the year 2000. It's a split from Yellow-throated Laughing-thrush and is Critically Endangered. The total population is a little more than 300. They gather in some breeding colonies from mid-Apr to late July. After breeding, they disappear into hills and mountains and people still don't know where to find them in winter. They should have returned to the breeding colonies when we visit there.

**Day 10:** Birding and night at Wuyuan. In big rivers in Wuyuan Scaly-sided Merganser is winter visitor but sometimes we find immature birds departing much later, staying in Wuyuan to do some wing moult. Besides, we can find breeding Mandarin Duck and resident Crested Kingfisher, White-crowned Forktail, Long-billed Plover, Brown Dipper, Brown Crake etc. In some valleys we will go on looking for **minivets, bee-eater, leafbird, owlets, raptors** and **Chinese Bamboo Partridge**. Silver and Elliot's Pheasants are residents but very difficult to find.

As to migrants, since Wuyuan is in the south, we may find some that we haven't seen in Rudong and Lianyungang.

**D11:** Morning drive to Shanghai Pudong Airport for international departure in late afternoon or evening.

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