

Amazing Yellow Sea

2017 Autumn Tour

13 days starting from November 2nd, 2017

Bird watching while helping to conserve the migratory shorebirds in China



Photo by Chen Tengyi, one of our tour guides

Basic Information

SBS in China and CCWCT have been working in the front line for shorebirds conservation over a decade. Click for more information; <http://www.sbsinchina.com/col.jsp?id=500>

Read the trip report of Amazing Yellow Sea 2017 Spring Tour at http://www.sbsinchina.com/nd.jsp?id=200&_np=497_627

Know our tour guides: http://www.sbsinchina.com/nd.jsp?id=213&_np=497_627

Dates: 10 November 2019 ~ 22 November 2019 13 days

Sites: Shanghai, Coast of Jiangsu, Wuyuan, Poyang Lake Nature Reserve, Dongzhai Nature Reserve, Yancheng Nature Reserve

Highlights:

Coastal areas of China: Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Nordmann's Greenshank, Asian Dowitcher, Far Eastern Curlew, Great Knot, Red Knot, Bar-tailed Godwit, Saunders's Gull, Relict Gull, Black-faced Spoonbill, Reed Parrotbill and over 200 migratory shorebirds and forest birds in the largest intertidal areas of China;

Wuyuan: Scaly-sided Merganser, Scimitar Babblers, Short-tailed Parrotbill, Dusky Fulvetta, Chinese Bamboo Partridge, and other forest birds including Pied Falconet, Red-billed Leiothrix, Red-billed Starling, Red-billed Blue Magpie, Chestnut Bulbul, Grey-headed Parrotbill etc.

Poyang Lake NR: Siberian Crane, Baer's Pochard and Geese of all kinds

Dongzhai NR: Reeves's Pheasant and the reintroduced Crested Ibis.

Yancheng NR: Red-crowned Crane, Japanese Reed Bunting and Baikal Teals

Led by China Coastal Waterbird Census Team surveyors who have been working as volunteers for over 10 years.

Cost: US\$ 4,800 **Deposit:** US\$ 700

The Cost Includes: All accommodations, all main meals, internal train/flight as stated in the itinerary, overland transport, entrance fees, water and guidance;

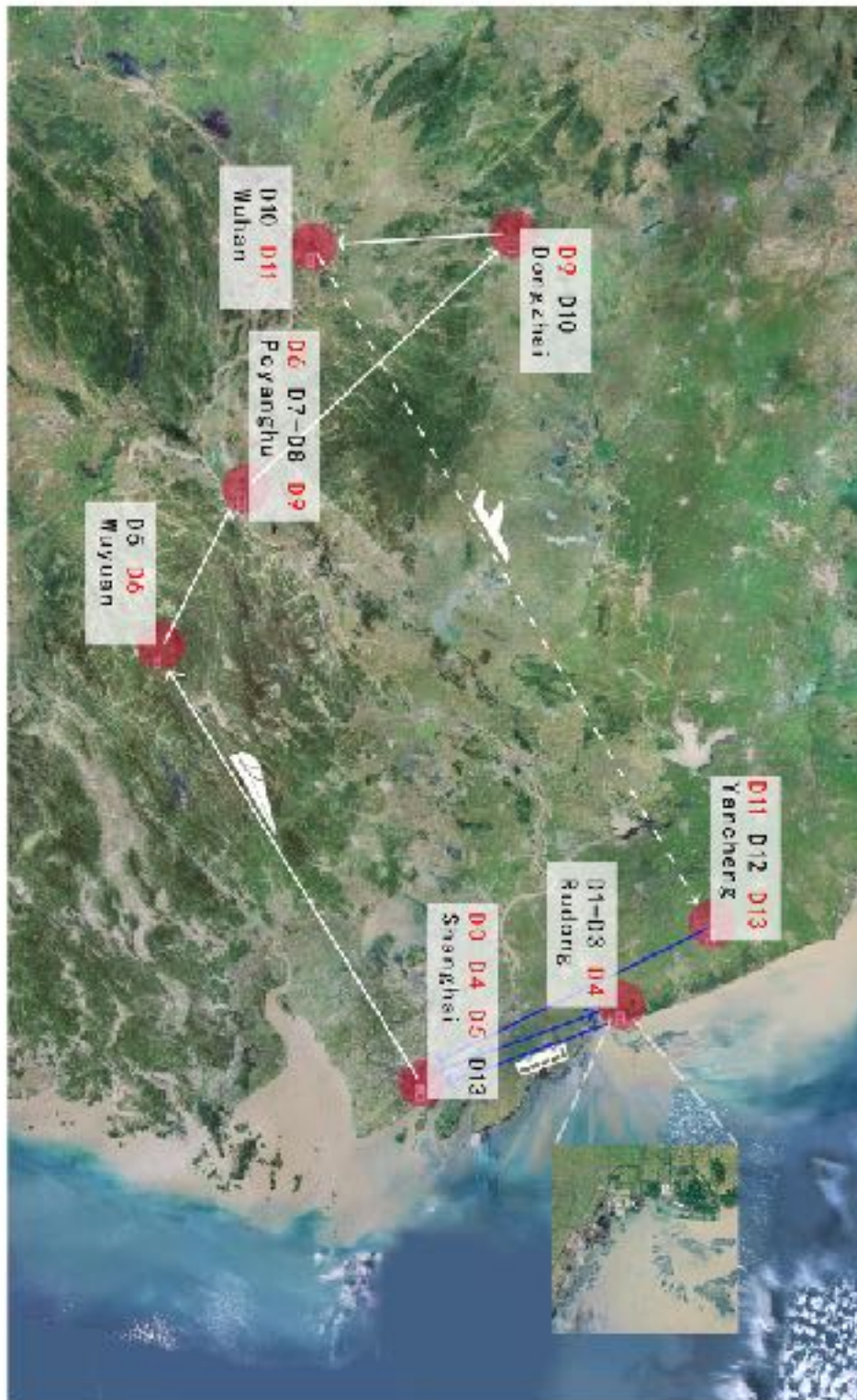
What's not included: International travels to and from Shanghai; tourist visa and international travel insurance; alcoholic drinks, tips and other items of personal nature

Amazing Yellow Sea tour is a fundraising program, 10% income will be donated to China Coastal Waterbird Census Team.

For more information, please contact info@sbsinchina.com or call Jing Li +86 1391 6270 962

Itinerary:

		Sites and Activity	Bed	Hours of travel
Day 0	9 Nov	Intl flight arrive Shanghai	Pudong Airport	
Day 1	10 Nov	Hotel Pickup	Links Spa Hotel	4 hours by bus
Day 2	11 Nov	Dongtai-Rudong birding	Links Spa Hotel	
Day 3	12 Nov	Dongtai-Rudong birding	Links Spa Hotel	
Day 4	13 Nov	Half day birding	Shanghai	connecting stay in Shanghai
Day 5	14 Nov	Wuyuan	Wuyuan 婺源	4 hours by bullet train
Day 6	15 Nov	Poyang Lake NR	Yongxiu 永修	3 hours by bullet train
Day 7	16 Nov	Poyang Lake NR	Yongxiu 永修	
Day 8	17 Nov	Poyang Lake NR	Yongxiu 永修	
Day 9	18 Nov	Poyang Lake NR	Xinyang 信阳	2.5 hour by bullet train
Day 10	19 Nov	Dongzhai NR	Wuhan 武汉	
Day 11	20 Nov	Yancheng NR	Sheyang 射阳	1.5 hour flight
Day 12	21 Nov	Yancheng NR	Sheyang 射阳	
Day 13	22 Nov	Shanghai		
Day 14		Shanghai City Tour is available		



Map of the tour

Day 1 November 10th, 2019

Four hours drive in the early morning from **Shanghai** to cross the mighty **Yangtze River** to reach one of the best shorebird watching sites in the world in **Dongtai**, guided by our water bird surveyors from China Coastal Waterbird Census (CCWC) and Spoon-billed Sandpiper in China (SBS in China). Night at **Rudong**.

Accommodation: 4-star hotel Link Spa Hotel

Meals: breakfast at hotel; lunch and dinner at Rudong

Dongtai-Rudong is in the southern Yellow Sea. In autumn many shorebirds will gather from the north including Siberia and Alaska, to go on to spend their non-breeding season in south China, south/southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand etc. Some species use this site for a brief stop but some use it as a key staging site to finish their annual wing/tail/body moult. The ones doing the full moult here include Spoon-billed Sandpiper and Nordmann's Greenshank. Thus in September and October we have the best chance to get large counts as moulting takes more than one month. The best formal population estimate on Spoon-billed Sandpiper is based on the counts here and for several years our counts on Nordmann's Greenshank exceeds the current population estimate.

In early November, some individuals which finish moult earlier (female, failed breeder, 1st-summer) may have departed, while some which do the moult later (male) still stage here till late November. Thus we still have chance to find decent numbers of them.

Besides, we may see almost all other possible species of shorebirds in this flyway. Especially, we will find hundreds of the *osculans* subspecies of Eurasian Oystercatcher, treated as a full species by many experts as Far Eastern Oystercatcher, the population of which is only more than 10000 and Jiangsu coast supports almost half of it in winter.

Dalmatian Pelican is another species our team monitors. The East Asian population is in trouble and thought to be no more than 100. November is the peak time of their southward migration through here and once we counted 112. Usually we can see tens of them in early November.

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

Besides waterbirds, Rudong is also a hotspot for passerine migrants. Although it's late for many of them, we can still meet some late ones and some wintering ones eg. thrushes, buntings, robins and residents incl. the endemic Reed Parrotbill.

Day 2 and Day 3, November 11th and 12th, 2019

We will spend two full days birding Dongtai-Rudong and night at Rudong.

Accommodation: 4-star hotel Link Spa Hotel

Meals: breakfast at hotel; lunch and dinner at Rudong

Day 4, November 13th, 2019

We will birdwatch in the morning and try those missing species in the trip and return Shanghai after lunch.

Accommodation: 4-star hotel near Shanghai Hongqiao Airport

Meals: breakfast at hotel; lunch at Rudong and dinner at Shanghai

Day 5, November 14th, 2019

We will take high speed train to **Wuyuan** city and overnight there. Wuyuan has very nice country side view in hilly areas with many old trees around villages. We will visit some birding locations including old villages which are homes to Pied Falconet and many other woodland birds eg. laughing thrushes, parrotbills, babblers...

In big rivers in Wuyuan Scaly-sided Merganser is winter visitor. Besides, we can find Mandarin Duck and Crested Kingfisher, White-crowned Fork tail, Long-billed Plover, Brown Dipper, Brown Crake etc. In some valleys we will go on looking for minivet, leafbird, owlets, raptors and Chinese Bamboo Partridge. Silver and Elliot's Pheasants are residents but very difficult to find.

Blue-crowned Laughingthrush (or called Courtois's Laughingthrush) had been lost for almost a hundred years and was rediscovered in Wuyuan only around the year 2000. It's a split from Yellow-throated Laughingthrush 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. If we are very lucky to meet some, it will fill in a little to the gap of knowledge and contribute to its conservation.

Accommodation: 4-star hotel or equivalent at Wuyuan

Meals: breakfast at hotel; lunch and dinner at Wuyuan

Day 6, November 15th, 2019

After a morning birding in Wuyuan. We will drive to stay in **Yongxiu** for three nights, a city next to the huge freshwater lake called **Poyang**. Poyang Lake in winter supports tens of thousand of cranes, waterfowls, storks and shorebirds. Although not all of them have arrived, we have good chance to find Siberian Crane. Almost 99% of its population winters in this lake, together with White-naped, Hooded and Common Cranes. Geese we will look for include Swan, Greylag, Greater and Lesser White-fronted and Bean. Here we should have the best chance in the whole trip for Oriental Stork.

If weather is good, the skulking Japanese Swamp Warbler can sometimes show well.

In the hills around the lake we may find some crows including Rook and a few Daurian Jackdaw.

Accommodation: 4-star hotel or equivalent at Yongxiu

Meals: breakfast at hotel; lunch and dinner at Yongxiu

Day 7 and Day8, November 16th and 17th , 2019

Birding Poyang Lake and night at Yongxiu.

Accommodation: 4-star hotel or equivalent at Yongxiu

Meals: breakfast at hotel; lunch and dinner at Yongxiu

Day 9, November 18th, 2019

We will drive north to visit a different part of the lake to look for Baer's Pochard. Here we will take a late afternoon bullet train to cross the Yangtze River again and travel to **Dongzhai Nature Reserve** in southern Henan Province.

Accommodation: 4-star hotel or equivalent at Xinyang

Meals: breakfast at hotel; lunch and dinner at Xinyang

Day 10, November 19th, 2019

Dongzhai Nature Reserve was set up especially for Reeves's Pheasant and now it's not difficult to see them in the woodlands. In the farmland we can see Collared Crow and the reintroduced Crested Ibis.

The ibis was thought to be extinct and in the 1980's seven birds were found in central China. Now in several places captive populations can be found and a few years ago in Dongzhai some were released and became well established in the field.

At sunset we will travel for less than an hour by train to night at Wuhan.

Accommodation: 4-star hotel or equivalent at Wuhan

Meals: breakfast in town; lunch at Dongzhai NR and dinner at Wuhan

Day 11, November 20th, 2019

Early flight to **Yancheng**; Drive to and night at Yancheng Nature Reserve.

Yancheng Nature Reserve lies north of Dongtai-Rudong with different habitats, supporting many cranes, waterfowls, storks and spoonbills. Besides Red-crowned Crane, we will find again Hooded and Common, in which we often find one or two Sandhill Cranes which should be from the small East Asian population. In the open terrain we can find quite a few raptor species such as Peregrine, Merlin, Kestrel, Common Buzzard, Eurasian Sparrow hawk, Eastern Marsh Harrier, Hen Harrier and even Upland Buzzard due that this is the northernmost site we will visit in the whole trip. The extensive farmland with reedbeds gives us good opportunity for Japanese Reed Bunting and Lapland Bunting. Also at dusk it's really spectacular to see thousands and thousands of ducks (in some years, thousands of Baikal Teal) coming to farmland to feed in the evening and the next morning when they leave, hundreds to thousands of cranes and geese coming in to feed.

Accommodation: 4-star hotel or equivalent at Sheyang

Meals: breakfast at hotel; lunch and dinner at Sheyang

Day 12, November 16th, 2019

Birding and night at Yancheng NR.

Accommodation: 4-star hotel or equivalent at Sheyang

Meals: breakfast at hotel; lunch and dinner at Sheyang

Day 13, November 17th, 2019

Birding Yancheng NR. Afternoon drive to night at Shanghai.

A city tour of Shanghai is available on November 18th, 2019

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updated by May 18, 2018