

BOHAI UPDATE #6 JUNE 6, 2016

Hi All

Welcome to the 6th and final update from the Luannan coast, Bohai Bay, China.

The *piersmai* Red Knot are still not here in the expected numbers. Not only are the total numbers of Red Knot down, but two more indications, are the lack of resightings and the 'rog V p scans' that is the ratios of the two sup-species (*rogersi* and *piersmai*) to each other. Some very basic data are below to show this.

Comparing count data from 2015 and 2016

COUNTS	29/05/2015	29/05/2016	5/06/2015	5/06/2016
RED KNOT	19000	5480	6230	1910

Rogersi compared to Peirsmmai subspecies from 2015 and 2016

r V p %	17-26/05/2015	27/05 - 05/06/2016	17-26/05/2015	27/05 - 05/06/2016
RED KNOT	19/81	34/66	19/81	47/53

Number of Broome colour bands compared between 2015 and 2016

CB recorded	17-26/05/2015	27/05 - 05/06/2016	17-26/05/2015	27/05 - 05/06/2016
RED KNOT	468	160	256	102

We are still recording 'new' colourbanded birds, so it seems some *piersmai* are still trickling through the Luannan Coast, but counts from NWA this non-breeding season will be informative as will any news of unusually large concentrations of Red Knot in the Yellow Sea this northward migration period. More on this in the full report (coming soon – ish).

We have now recorded a total of 3,582 marked birds for this season and only a ridiculous low of 119 additional marked birds in the last six days. For the whole season marked birds have been identified from 31 sites on 17 species. Red Knot still leads the way with 2,698 sightings. Of the last 119 resightings, 113 have been Red Knot! (K)not so surprising there are very few other species left here, even Curlew Sandpiper and Sanderling, which are still usually numbering in their thousands at this date, are very difficult to find with less than a few hundred of each species. This really has been an unusual migration season through the Luannan Coast, Bohai Bay, China and not just for Red Knot.

NON SHOREBIRDS

As it is towards the end of the migration season we have not seen a lot of birds in the past ten days.

But we have now recorded 230 species since we arrived here.

A new addition to list was Red Collared Dove on the 4/6/2016 at the Nanpu seawall.

Tiger Shrike and Northern House Martin have also been highlights.

Despite having our highest total ever, we still have a few birds that we usually see each year that we haven't this season - such as Eurasian Bittern, Chinese Egret, Mandarin Duck and Brown Hawk Owl.

An enjoyable sight here are the restless and busy tern colonies on islands in the larger salt ponds.



Colony of Gull-billed and Common Terns breeding in one of the salt ponds. © Adrian Boyle

Now forget all that, sit back and relax and look at the people who we share the area with.

A picture says a thousand words (apparently), so this will be our longest update ever but with minimal effort!

PEOPLE

The first time Chris visited here in 2009 there was one PhD student (Yan Hong-Yan, Nicky) undertaking research here. Now there are people everywhere! This is a good thing, as the general knowledge base builds, hopefully towards conservation initiatives.

Here is a bunch of images of various folks - except for the wonderful Kath Leung, who was with us here for a few days, but no-one took her picture (sorry Kath)!

Thanks to various folk for the images of various folk!



Ann Jones (ABC), Andrew Luck-Baker (BBC) and a couple of blokes from the External Liaison Department, Theunis, Bob, Ady, Chris.



Kerry Hadley and various shellfishers.



Ady, Mr Lui (Young Driver), Chris, Bob.



Drew drove into a paddy field (no we don't know why either)!
He then got Hung Ju Lin to get him out, now that's delegation!



It can't always be serious, you gotta have a laugh, Drew running Zhao Jian lying about.



Hung Ju Lin, Micha Jackson, Leiming, Zhao Jian, Mr Guo Shifu (Bird Trapper), Drew.



Jason Loghry sitting in a car (as usual) - you gotta get out to see some birds Jason!



Peter Crighton scanning a salt pond.



I'm getting on a bit and it's a long seawall!



Mr Lui (Old Driver) looking serious - spends most of his time smiling.



That's more like it.



Bob loves scanning!



Stylish boots, Ady.



Leiming and friend.



Ying Chi Chan videoing shorebirds.



Our friends in the salt ponds.



Breakfast Man (one of a few)

That's it, see you next year.

Chris, Ady, Bob
06/06/2016