

Striving Towards a Modern Coastal Metropolis

"Mythical Birds" Return to Ningbo to Breed

By Dong Na

The majestic Chinese crested tern, a national first-class protected animal revered as the "mythical bird", arrived at Xiangshan's Jiushan Islands in late April for its annual breeding season, mating with the great crested tern, a closely related species. In early June, the first offspring of the Chinese crested tern emerged from their shells.

Hatching of the First Chicks

Chinese crested terns, known for faithful annual returns to their birthplace for breeding, have once again appeared on the shores of Xiangshan. Zhongtiedunyu Island, quiet and peaceful during the rest of the year, now bears witness to the arrival of these majestic birds and the promise of new life.

In April, three Chinese crested terns were observed on the island. As May unfolded, the first and second pairs of terns laid their precious eggs. Since then, the number of terns and breeding nests has been multiplying.

The eagerly anticipated moment arrived on June 4 at around 2AM when the first newborn broke free from its shell, marking the earliest hatching at Xiangshan Jiushan Island National Nature Reserve. At around 4PM, the second chick emerged.

As of the evening of June 7, a remarkable total of 7,500 great crested tern chicks were hatched from 3,700 nests at the Reserve. Meanwhile, the number of Chinese crested tern nests stood at a promising 41, with 8 already celebrating successful hatches.



The majestic Chinese crested tern. [Photo by Ding Peng]

Efforts to Help Terns Multiply in Xiangshan

The Chinese crested tern, one of the rarest seabirds in the world, was once thought to be extinct until its rediscovery in 2000. In 2004, researchers in Zhejiang first spotted Chinese crested terns in the Xiangshan Jiushan Islands.

To better protect this critically endangered species, Xiangshan Jiushan Islands National Nature Reserve formed a long-term partnership with the Zhejiang Museum of Natural History. Together, they established a suit-

able breeding site for crested terns on Zhongtiedunyu Island within the reserve in 2013, creating an inviting sanctuary for the birds.

"Our project is also about developing innovative approaches to effectively conserve marine ecosystems," said Fan Zhongyong, research curator at the Zhejiang Museum of Natural History. Fan noted that while helping the endangered birds reproduce, the project is constantly exploring new ways to keep all marine birds safe.

Thanks to these collaborative efforts, the population of adult Chinese crested terns has risen from fewer than 50 individuals to more than 150. More than half of the world's Chinese

crested tern chicks are born on the Jiushan Islands every year.

Ningbo, a Crucial Breeding Ground

The Chinese crested tern, a gregarious seabird species, follows a migratory pattern between low and middle latitudes, forming breeding clusters during the appropriate seasons.

Due to their small numbers, the Chinese crested tern have resorted to blending in with flocks of great crested terns for better protection against predators.

In recent years, Xiangshan and Dinghai have emerged as crucial breeding grounds for the

Chinese crested tern, hosting over 85% of the world's adult population. These areas have become focal points for the global conservation and breeding efforts dedicated to this magnificent species.

Chen Shuihua, an esteemed ornithologist, said that human efforts to create breeding grounds have greatly improved the reproductive success rate of the Chinese crested terns and effectively restored their population size. "From less than 50 to over 150, the population rebound is a pivotal turnaround that has provided a glimmer of hope in preventing the critically endangered species from teetering on the brink of extinction."



SPOTLIGHT

Ningbo Ready to Host Asian Games with Top-Tier Facilities

By Xu Zhuowei

June 15th marks the 100-day countdown to the Hangzhou Asian Games. Excitement is building as the opening draws near. Let's take an exclusive glimpse into the competition venues and the Asian Games Village preparations!

According to the relevant departments, the Ningbo Xiangshan Sailing Center, Ningbo Banbianshan Beach Volleyball Center, and the Asian Games Village at Xiangshan have all entered the final stage of preparation. All work is progressing smoothly. The venues are poised to welcome guests from around the globe.

On September 23rd, the 19th Asian Games will commence. Ningbo, as one of the co-host cities, will be organizing two major events: sailing and windsurfing, as well as beach volleyball. The competitions will be held at the Ningbo Xiangshan Sailing Center and Ningbo Banbianshan Beach Volleyball Center respectively.

The final acceptance of the competition venues, training grounds, and their functions is an important task in the runup of the Asian Games.

Recently, two technical delegates for the Asian Games' sailing event, Arshad Abdur Rehman from Pakistan and David Glenn Brookes from Australia, visited Xiangshan to inspect the competition venue and preparations. Both stated that the facilities, team operations, and preparation work of the Ningbo Xiangshan Sailing Center venue far exceeded their expectations. "This is a very suitable venue for hosting sailing competitions. All facilities meet the official competition requirements of the Asian Games."

Zhai Chengzhu, assistant technical representative of the National Beach Volleyball Grand Slam Tournament (Xiangshan), commented after the match that "The Ningbo Banbianshan Beach Volleyball Center boasts three main venues with stands, a sub-venue and five competition and training venues. This setup is unprecedented in domestic competitions and rare in international competitions. All requirements for hosting international competitions and Asian Games are met."

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双语汇 Different Tongues

滨江水韵公园：运动、遛娃的好去处

By Jin Lu

During holidays and weekends, Binjiang Shuiyun Park comes alive with citizens taking leisurely walks, doing the square dance, and playing musical instruments.

每到节假日，在滨江水韵公园休闲散步、跳广场舞、演奏乐器的市民摩肩接踵。

Binjiang Shuiyun Park is one of the newest community infrastructure projects in Ningbo's High-tech Zone. It is a place where people can take part in cultural activities, enjoy the natural environment, and engage in sports. The park, with paths for jogging, fitness walking, and cycling, serves as a public space for citizens to appreciate nature, improve fitness, and enjoy themselves.

滨江水韵公园是高新区近年来最重要的民生工程之一，它集人文、生态、运动等概念于

一体，为当地居民提供生态涵养、健康运动、休闲游玩的公共活动空间。

The park has basketball courts and football fields, as well as slides, soft climbing frames, sand pits, and play structures for children. It is a popular destination for families seeking outdoor fun with their children.

这里还配置了篮球场、足球场，还有深受孩子们欢迎的滑梯、软梯、沙坑及组合式儿童娱乐设施，成为越来越多家庭户外遛娃的上选之地。

The riverside is teeming with aquatic plants and waterfowl. Spanning over 10 kilometers, the park's paths attract many citizens seeking a scenic setting for their workout sessions.

江畔水草丰茂、水禽成群，超过10公里的沿江游步道全线贯通，优美的环境吸引着大量运动达人接踵而至。



Binjiang Shuiyun Park. 滨江水韵公园。[Photo by Yan Long] 严龙 摄

