

Electronic Supplementary Material Figures S1-S4

Figure S1. Nest site distribution of Oriental reed warblers and reed parrotbills in 2010 and 2011, in the Yellow River delta, China.

Figure S2. The principal component (1, 2, and 3) coefficients of egg background color and spots of the eggs of common cuckoo and its two hosts along the 300–700 nm wavelength.

Figure S3. The principal component (1, 2, and 3) score differences between common cuckoo and its two hosts in the reflectance of egg background color and spots.

Figure S4. The tarsus length (mm) measure of common cuckoo chicks raised by the two hosts. (a) the filled circles and black solid represent the original warbler nests ($n = 15$); the hollow circles and grey solid represent the cross-forester warbler nests ($n = 5$); (b) the triangle and the dotted represent the cross-forester parrotbill nests ($n = 6$).

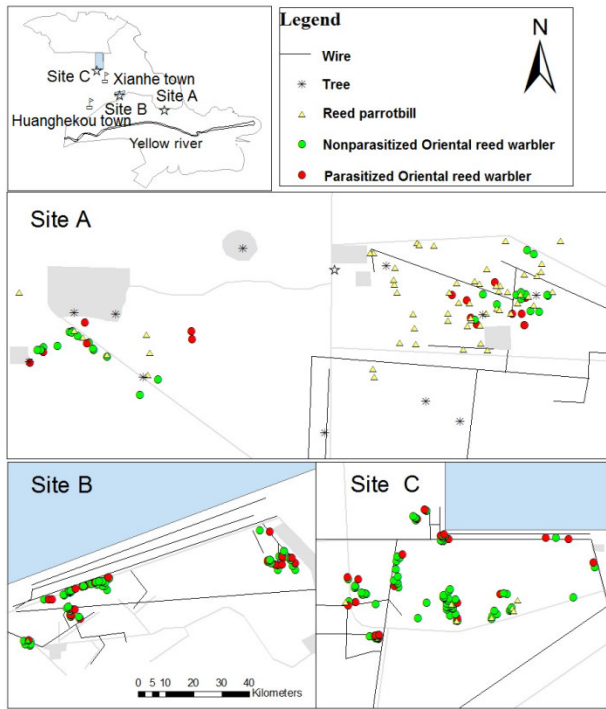


Fig. S1

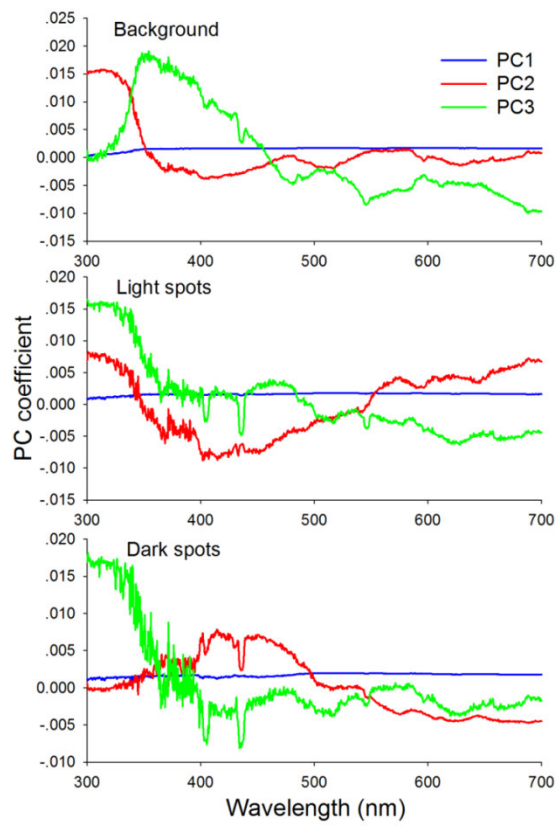


Fig. S2

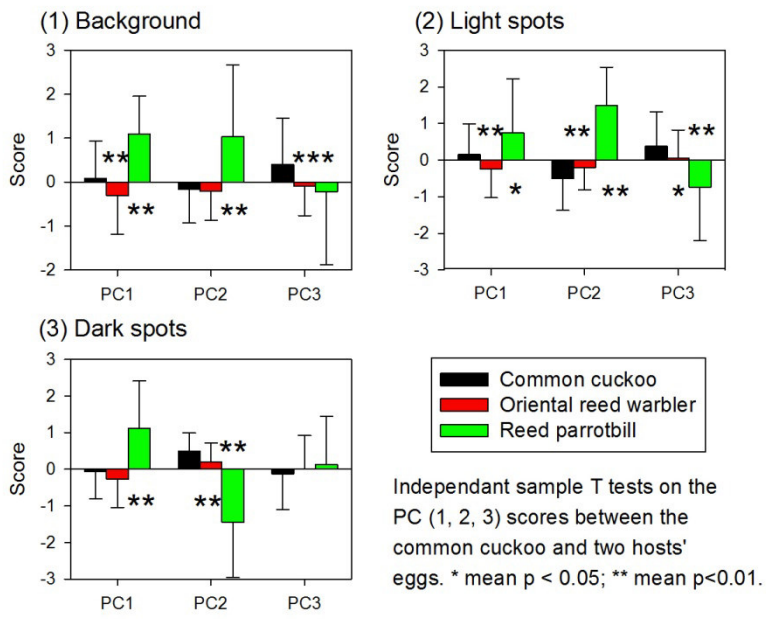


Fig. S3

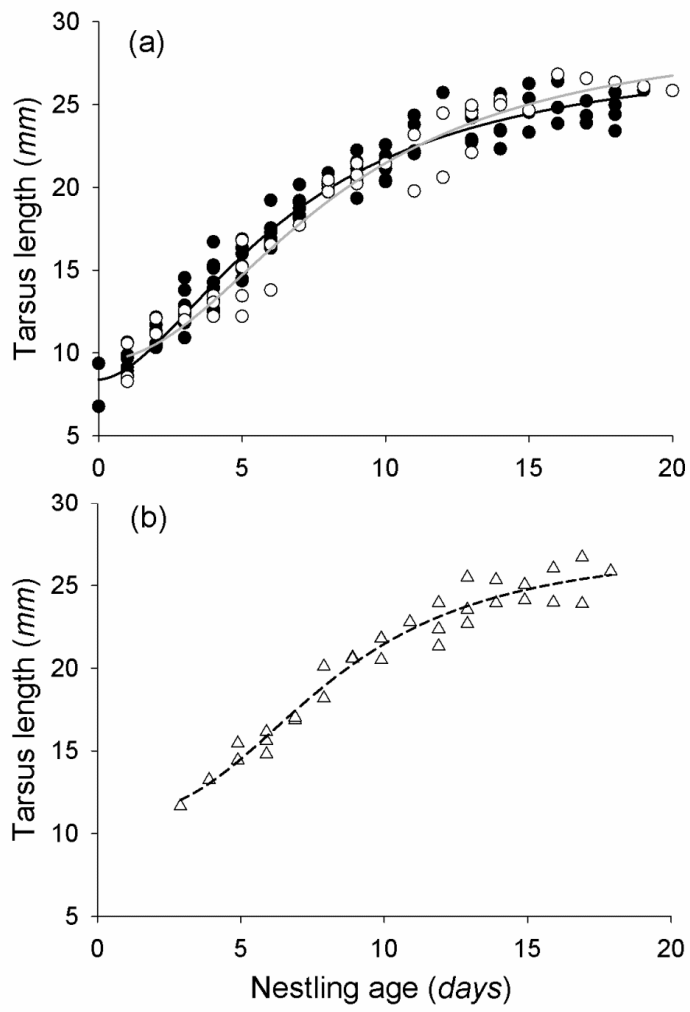


Fig. S4

Electronic Supplementary Material Table S1-S2

Table S1. Cuckoo parasitism rates on Oriental reed warblers and reed parrotbills in the Yellow River delta, Eastern China.

Hosts/years	Oriental reed warbler				Reed parrotbill				
	2010	2011	2012	Total	2008	2010	2011	2012	Total
Total nests	142	104	116	362	40	24	35	33	132
Single parasitism rate (%)	20.4	24.0	22.4	22.1	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8
Multiple parasitism rate (%)	2.8	2.9	2.6	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Overall parasitism rate (%)	23.2	26.9	25.0	24.9	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8

Table S2. The annual variations in the number and density of nests for two host species in three main study site, Yellow river delta.

Host species	Study site	Number of nests				Density of nests (/km ²)			
		2010	2011	2012	Total	2010	2011	2012	Average
Warblers	Site A	6	47	102	155	4.9	38.5	83.6	42.3
	Site B	40	58	0	98	189.8	275.3	0.0	155.0
	Site C	102	16	0	118	63.7	10.0	0.0	24.6
	Total	148	121	102	371	48.8	39.9	33.6	40.8
Parrotbills	Site A	19	34	37	90	15.6	27.9	30.3	24.6
	Site B	1	2	0	3	4.7	9.5	0.0	4.7
	Site C	7	0	0	7	4.4	0.0	0.0	1.5
	Total	27	36	37	100	8.9	11.9	12.2	11.0