



SICHUAN TOUR REPORT

6th May to 25th May
2017

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Either for rarity value, excellent views or simply a group favourite.

- Smew
- Chinese Grouse
- Snow Partridge
- Verreaux's Monal-Partridge
- Tibetan Snowcock
- Temminck's Tragopan
- Koklass Pheasant
- Chinese Monal
- White Eared Pheasant
- Blue Eared Pheasant
- Golden Pheasant
- Lady Amherst's Pheasant
- Black-necked Crane
- Pere David's Owl
- Chinese Tawny Owl
- Saker Falcon
- Tiger Shrike
- Sichuan Jay
- Collared Crow
- White-browed Tit
- Pere David's Tit
- Ground Tit
- Chinese Wren Babbler
- Tibetan Lark
- Sooty Bushtit
- Black-browed Bushtit
- White-browed Tit-Warbler
- Crested Tit-Warbler
- Sichuan Bush-Warbler
- Baikal Bush Warbler
- Golden-fronted Fulvetta
- Chinese Babax
- Black-streaked Scimitar-Babbler
- Rusty-capped Fulvetta
- Snowy-cheeked Laughingthrush
- Barred Laughingthrush
- Giant Laughingthrush
- Spotted Laughingthrush
- Red-winged Laughingthrush
- Buffy Laughingthrush
- Emei Shan Liocichla
- Golden-breasted Fulvetta
- Rufous-tailed Babbler
- Spectacled Fulvetta
- Great Parrotbill
- Three-toed Parrotbill
- Grey-hooded Parrotbill
- Fulvous Parrotbill
- Golden Parrotbill
- Przewalski's Nuthatch
- Wallcreeper
- Sichuan Forest Thrush
- Long-tailed Thrush
- Chinese Rubythroat
- Firethroat
- Tibetan Snowfinch
- Rufous-necked Snowfinch
- Maroon-backed Accentor
- Przevalski's Finch
- Collared Grosbeak
- Dark-rumped Rosefinch
- Streaked Rosefinch
- Sharpe's Rosefinch
- Long-tailed Rosefinch
- Three-banded Rosefinch
- Red-fronted Rosefinch
- Crimson-browed Finch
- Slaty Bunting

SUMMARY:

Sichuan continues to provide some of the most memorable birding on the planet, with its combination of high quality target species and stunning scenery. Amongst the 325 species seen on this tour, it is always the 'chickens' that stand out and this year's tour gave us incredible looks at 3 displaying male Temminck's Tragopans, point-blank views of male Chinese Monal, and an incredibly confiding male Golden Pheasant. Watching a pair of Tibetan Snowcocks charging towards us in a blizzard was also pretty incredible, as were repeated looks at Chinese Grouse. Our tour followed our regular itinerary, beginning at Longcanggou where an incredible variety of forest birds including all the usual cuckoos, warblers, flycatchers, parrotbills and laughingthrushes were seen. However, great views of Chinese Tawny Owl, Chinese Wren Babbler and Grey-hooded Parrotbill really stand out from our time here. Erlang Shan was



our next port of call and although it is a little 'out of the way' is really worth a visit for the superb views we experienced of Lady Amherst's Pheasant, Rufous-tailed Babbler, Rusty-crowned Fulvetta, Long-tailed Rosefinch and the stunning Firethroat. Two full days on incredible Balangshan are always exciting, and you just know you are going to see some awesome birds here. Being surrounded by snow-capped peaks, watching monals and tragopans right in front of you is an experience never to be forgotten, although the more demure Sichuan Forest Thrush

singing in front of us was also pretty cool. Moving on to Mengbisha and then up onto the wide-open plains of the Tibetan Plateau also proved productive, with impressive Blue Eared-Pheasants, Przevalski's Finch singing on a scrub-covered hillside, nesting Tibetan Snowfinch beside the road, dashing Saker Falcons, and diminutive Crested Tit-Warblers in the pine forest. It took a long time but we eventually nailed Sichuan Jay with a flock moving across a forested hillside – a huge result. A majestic Pere David's Owl staring balefully down at us from his lofty perch signalled the end of our main tour before setting off to wonderful Tangjiahe. Our remote hotel was perfectly located to explore the trails and a number of special birds such as Spectacled Fulvetta, Fulvous Parrotbill, Baikal Bush Warbler, Slaty Bunting and a stunning pair of Temminck's Tragopans refusing to move from the path in front of us were among numerous highlights. Oh and the male Golden pheasant charging down a grassy slope towards us was also superb. Sichuan is quite simply awesome!

Days 1 - 2 ARRIVAL IN SICHUAN

We took an overnight flight from Heathrow to Chengdu with Cathay Pacific, via Hong Kong, eventually arriving at our hotel just before midnight.

Day 3 BAIHAIUAN PARK

With the group finally together and meeting up with some earlier arrivals we walked around the nearby park picking up **Black-crowned Night-Heron**, **White-browed Laughingthrush**, **Chinese Blackbird**, numerous **Chinese (Light-vented) Bulbuls**, **Black-throated Bushtits**, **Plumbeous Water-Redstart**. It took a while to find **Vinous-throated Parrotbill**, but as we were waiting for this bird to appear a female **Slaty-blue Flycatcher** appeared – such a surprising find, but it is migration time. A *seicercus* warbler was also seen but not reliably identified as it wasn't calling – it definitely wasn't a Grey-crowned and I suspect it may well have been a rather out-of-place **Alstrom's Warbler**..... maybe....

So after breakfast we left on the 2 hour drive to our first proper birding stop near Ya'an. A quick stop at a service station along the way had some nice habitat and a pair of **Swinhoe's Minivets** showed really well at eye-level, whilst **Rufous-capped Babbler** circled us a few times. From here it didn't take us much longer to get to our birding site along a river and here we had repeated close looks at **Rufous-faced Warbler**, along with some confiding **Ashy-throated Parrotbills**, **Collared Finchbills**, **Black Bulbuls**, **Yellow-rumped Flycatcher**, **White-rumped Munia**, **Red-billed Blue Magpie**, and some superb close views of a pair of **Black Bazas**. Lunch at the nearby restaurant followed and then a shopping expedition for the next 3 full days at Longcanggou turned into a serious exercise in phaffing before we eventually left Ya'an at 3pm and drove to Longcanggou.

We checked out a few spots on the drive up to the lodge at Longcanggou and managed to obtain crippling views of **Sulphur-breasted Warbler** singing by the roadside. There was also **Grey Bushchat** and a pair of **Russet Sparrows** on the drive up to the lodge as well. And we eventually reached our base for the next four nights around 4.45pm where we enjoyed a nice couple of hours birding along the road. We began with a close **Brown-flanked Bush-Warbler**, followed by a cracking **Yellow-throated Bunting** singing on the telegraph wires, a **Little Bunting**, **Large Hawk-Cuckoo**, a pair of **Black-naped Orioles**, **Long-tailed Minivet**, **Grey-backed Shrike**, and an extremely confiding **Kloss's Leaf-Warbler** that flew down to the bush next to us and proceeded to sing its heart out – it was almost too close to focus on! As usual, **Chinese Bamboo-Partridge** just called from the fields without being seen so we'd have to give that another try later.

Day 4 LONGCANGGOU

Our first full day in Longcanggou turned out to be a really good day where we scored with a number of key target species, several of which often take a few days to find here. So we left the lodge at 5.15am and dove up in our coaster to our usual breakfast spot, and after an eighty minute bumpy drive we were just about ready for it. It was an overcast day and a little cool but this meant that bird activity continued right through to lunchtime, when the mist came in and we had drizzle that lingered for the rest of the afternoon. Anyway, we kicked off proceedings with a **Brown Bush Warbler** skulking at the edge of a small stand of bamboo. Then we hit the first of many flocks today that gave us **Mrs Gould's Sunbird**, **Yellow-browed**, **Green-backed** and **Coal Tits**, **Short-billed Minivet**, **Red-tailed** and **Blue-winged Minlas**, the first of many **Large-billed Leaf-Warblers**, **Sichuan Leaf-Warbler**, and best of all a pair of **Fire-capped Tits**. This latter species would be seen very well several times during the day. Whilst we were stood here watching the flock I heard a few more good birds just a little further down the track and sure enough we pulled out a confiding pair of **Golden Parrotbills** that gave repeatedly close views, plus **Yellowish-bellied** and **Aberrant Bush-Warblers**, and there was a flock of **Brown Bullfinches** flying overhead as well.

After our picnic breakfast we spent the rest of the morning walking along a wide track that took us through great habitat with plenty of bamboo. We had a few attempts at seeing **Red-winged Laughingthrush** and little by little a few of the group managed tickable views, but boy they are true skulkers. Our walk was very productive and we saw several fine **Grey-hooded Fulvettas**, flyover **Speckled Woodpigeon**, **Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush**, **Vinaceous Rosefinch**, **Darjeeling Woodpecker**, **Blyth's Shrike-Babbler**, **Buff-barred**, **Ashy-throated** and **Claudia's Leaf-Warblers**, **White-browed Bush-Robin**, **Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher**, **White-collared** and **Stripe-throated Yuhinas**, a very showy **White-bellied Redstart** perched right out on an open branch of a small conifer, **Elliot's Laughingthrush**, **Collared Grosbeak**, **Olive-backed Pipit**, and best of all a pair of **Three-toed Parrotbills** spotted by Julian, and an **Emei Shan Liocichla** posing nicely in a small conifer.

By the time we had returned to the coach it was midday and lunch already felt overdue, so after some hot noodles we all felt fortified enough to make another short walk. I really wanted to keep our hot streak going by nailing **Great Parrotbill**. As we walked along the track that passes through the bamboo zone we came across a big flock with **Red-tailed** and **Blue-winged Minlas**, several **Golden-breasted Fulvettas**, and another **Golden Parrotbill**. As we watched all of the action a **Great Parrotbill** was found feeding low down inside a stand of bamboo. It was really tucked in and obscured but for those in the right position it gave some decent views. So with the drizzle getting heavier we returned to the coach and drove lower.

We walked along a side trail through some great forest and found a few more flocks with **Black-winged Cuckooshrike**, **Yellow-bellied Tit**, **Ferruginous Flycatcher**, **Chestnut-crowned Warbler** and both **Ultramarine** and the rare **Sapphire Flycatchers** all in the first flock. We followed the trail but activity was quite slow but we still picked up **Himalayan Swiftlet**, **Emei Leaf-Warbler**, a **Fujian Niltava**, **Eurasian Nuthatch** and a confiding **Pygmy Wren-Babbler**. Once we were back on the main track we tried to get a view of a singing **Marten's Warbler**, when all of a sudden a flock of **Buffy Laughingthrushes** passed by and we chased them along the track and were rewarded with good views eventually. As we continued down the track it was apparent that the drizzle had literally dampened bird activity so we hopped onto the coach and returned to the lodge, extremely satisfied with our day.

Day 5 LONGCANGGOU

Headed up into the hills at 5.15am in a couple of small minivans and drove to the pass, stopping along the way to secure absolutely crippling views of a pair of **Grey-hooded Parrotbills**. Sounds easy right? Well, it was our second stop where we searched for this rare endemic and it was very pleasing to find them right



Grey-hooded Parrotbill

beside the main track. What a bird! Up at the pass we had our breakfast and watched 14 **Oriental Honey Buzzards** flying over in the clear blue sky, plus a couple of **White-throated Needleetails**. Afterwards we began our time consuming search for **Sichuan Treecreeper** and walked down to some fantastic forest. Along the way we absolutely nailed **Spotted Bush Warbler** with very close looks at a singing bird, followed by a pair of **Buff-throated Warblers**, a posing **White-bellied Redstart** and a singing **Chestnut Thrush**. When a **Chinese Wren-Babbler** began calling I didn't feel too optimistic about our chances of actually seeing it but how wrong can you be? I mean we watched it for about 5 minutes walking along a

log on the forest floor repeatedly and then scurrying around a clearing before leaving it in peace. What a result. Well, we couldn't locate any treecreepers but did get a pair of confiding **Great Parrotbills**, **Bianchi's Warbler**, and eventually fine views of a **Chestnut-headed Tesia**. We ended the morning's session with scope views of a calling **Lesser Cuckoo**.

After our picnic lunch we continued walking and saw **Eurasian Wren**, **Darjeeling Woodpecker**, lots of **Sichuan Leaf Warblers**, **Large Hawk-Cuckoo**, and amazingly a **Pere David's Tit**. But with mist and low cloud descending, bird activity died off completely as it did yesterday so we drove lower down and found a **Sichuan Bush Warbler** singing from the top of a grassy bank. And a nearby trail proved to be very quiet with only **Claudia's Warbler** and **Red-tailed Minla** to enliven proceedings, so we called it a day. Well that was until we returned to the lodge a little earlier than normal and decided to walk along the road in the forlorn hope of seeing a **Chinese Bamboo-Partridge**. But we did get our first **Eurasian Cuckoo**, **Grey-backed Shrike**, **Black-naped Oriole** and a few other commoner species.

Day 6 LONGCANGGOU

Well it rained all morning and into the early afternoon. We had already driven up the absolutely awful track to the start of the paved section of road *ie* the last 3kms before the pass and spent most of this time sheltering in a large worker's tent hunkered around the fire. We tried walking out and even drove up to the

pass but it rained constantly and the mist rolled in and out. After lunch we gave up and drove lower and sure enough the sun came out and we had blue sky. So we birded several areas on the way down and had quite a few flocks which gave us some previously seen species such as **Emei Shan Liocichla**, **Golden-breasted** and **Grey-hooded Fulvettas**, **Red-tailed** and **Blue-winged Minlas**, **Ashy-throated** and **Sichuan Leaf-Warblers** etc.

We eventually got to my target area and we quickly located a singing **Emei Leaf-Warbler** that posed just a few metres away from us and sang its heart out. The first of many **Brown Shrikes** that we were too see in the afternoon was also present as well. Moving to another area we walked through lovely forest where lots of **Kloss's Leaf-Warblers** were singing and we stumbled upon several flocks enjoying close views of **Chestnut-crowned Warbler** and **Yellow-browed Tit** amongst a bunch of commoner species. Moving on, another flock held **Ultramarine** and **Ferruginous Flycatchers** & **Yellow-bellied Tit**, and another **Oriental Honey Buzzard** and a **Mountain Hawk-Eagle** flew over. We also managed decent views of a singing **Marten's Warbler** and further on a **Grey-crowned Warbler** was also seen.

After dinner we went up the valley and called in a **Himalayan (Chinese Tawny) Owl** that flew right over us and hovered right above our heads before flying away. A lifer for me and what a buzz!

Day 7 LONGCANGGOU - LUDING

We birded the lower slopes of Longcanggou this morning and had an enjoyable walk along the road, picking up several new trip ticks. A singing **Chinese Blue Flycatcher** posed nicely on a bare branch right next to us, an **Oriental Cuckoo** flew over and a **Wedge-tailed Green-Pigeon** was also seen. As always there were several large flocks and we had nice views of a pair of **Brown Bullfinches**, Steve R picked up a showy **Speckled Piculet**, and in the flocks we also saw a **Marten's Warbler**, **Chestnut-crowned Warbler**, **Japanese White-eye**, **Kloss's** and **Large-billed Leaf-Warblers**, **Red-tailed Minla**, and there was also a nice pair of **Pere David's Fulvettas**. To finish a nice little session we had further views of **Sichuan Bush-Warbler** before heading back to the lodge, loading our luggage on-board and setting out on the five hour drive to Luding.

Along the way we stopped for a 'rest stop' and in the gardens behind the toilets we found **Yellow-streaked Warbler** and a cracking **Tiger Shrike**. A short drive further and we headed along the Old Erlang Shan Road where a pair of **Spotted Nutcrackers** greeted our arrival. As it was 4.15pm we had timed it perfectly and in glorious late afternoon sunshine we managed to find a number of great birds that would definitely make things easier tomorrow. Amazingly, I managed to call in a **Rufous-tailed Babbler** that perched on top of a bush for a little while and although it was partially obscured by a branch the views were good. Our first **Collared Finchbills**, **Brown-breasted Bulbuls**, **Daurian Redstart** and a **White-browed Fulvetta** followed. And our run of good luck continued when a **Barred Laughingthrush** hopped up into a leafless bush right below us and began to sing for several minutes. Wow! Many **Grey-crowned Warblers** were showing well in the area and we enjoyed repeated views, and an **Indian Blue Robin** hopped along the side of the road right in front of us. Walking back to our waiting coach a **Long-tailed Rosefinch** played hide-and-seek but was seen by most of the group.

Day 8 ERLANG SHAN

It felt like a good omen for today when we had a **Grey Nightjar** right beside our coach just before first light. And then we began our drive for **Lady Amherst Pheasant** along the Old Erlang Road, which took a couple of attempts but eventually everyone had views of an immature male and a couple of females at various points along the road. A **Koklass Pheasant** frozen at the side of the road was a first for me here and definitely a surprise. With the sun hitting the lower slopes there was more bird activity and when an unfamiliar song emanated from the slope above us I recorded the call and played it back. What appeared after a lengthy battle was like a bolt out of the blue. A fulvetta appeared which I assumed would be White-browed Fulvetta, but the narrower white supercilium, prominent black line above it and the rich chestnut crown leading onto the forecrown meant it was a **Rusty-capped Fulvetta** – a scarce bird in Sichuan. Following this we had our picnic breakfast and walked for about an hour, with **Pink-rumped Rosefinch** being the best bird,

although several **Elegant Buntings**, **Slaty-backed Flycatcher** and a pair of **Streak-breasted Scimitar-babblers** were rather nice as well. Suddenly a **Firethroat** began calling and this individual proved to be very confiding and over the next ten minutes we were treated to an amazing encounter with this much-wanted species. And what a stunner it is..! Meanwhile, overhead 3 **Black Bazas** and a **Himalayan Buzzard** were seen, plus we also had **Grey Bushchat**, **Daurian Redstart** and other common species.

Moving higher we encountered more and more **Spotted Nutcrackers**, in fact I have never seen so many here. A walk into the conifer forest got us some great views of **White-browed Fulvettas**, **Grey-crested Tit**, **Black-browed Bushtit**, and other previously seen species. Following this we spent some time around the abandoned buildings where a female **Russet Sparrow**, **Grey-headed Bullfinch** and **White-winged Grosbeak** were present. And our first **Rosy Pipit** was spotted by Jeff as we drove higher.



The spectacular Firethroat

Following our noodle lunch we walked up into the alpine pastures but found things to be very quiet and the only real bird of note was our first **Rufous-breasted Accentor**, so we drove lower and had really nice views of **Long-tailed Rosefinch** of the *henrici* race – a potential future split.

Day 9 LUDING - WOLONG

This was a travel day as we drove for some 8 hours from Luding to Wolong along the recently opened new road, after having a 7am breakfast in the hotel. A lie in!!! We eventually arrived in Wolong around 5.15pm and took a short walk along a trail but things were very quiet. The best bird today was a **Black-capped Kingfisher** amongst some common roadside birds seen as we were speeding along.

Day 10 BALANGSHAN

What a great day's birding to celebrate Steve H's milestone birthday this was. It started inauspiciously enough with heavy rain just before we boarded the coach and as we drove higher my intended destination of the tunnel area was blanketed in dense mist, so I decided to go higher. This was a good move as the weather was clearer in places, although low cloud swept in from time to time and then there was the snow. Oh yes it snowed alright and we birded the morning in a winter wonderland where some great birds were seen by us. First up was a pair of **Tibetan Snowcocks** running towards us and stopping about 10 metres away where they called and called, looking all around before slowly walking away. We had already had the usual sighting of a bird high above the road on a ridge, so this was a special treat. In the mist we saw **Rosy Pipits**, **Rufous-breasted Accentor** and then a pair of **Grandala** flew in literally 2 metres away from us and lingered for a long time. Even in the mist the male's iridescent blue stood out. Driving higher up we eventually connected with a group of 4 **Snow Partridges** just above the road but in the mist you couldn't really pick up any colour or detail on the birds, so we continued higher and connected with half a dozen **Red-fronted Rosefinches** feeding amongst the snow covered rocks below us. We'd also seen **Lammergeier**, a flock of **Yellow-billed Choughs**, **Blue-fronted Redstart**, a pair of **Brandt's Mountain-Finches** giving stunning views on the road, several **Plain Mountain-Finches** and several **Alpine Accentors**, one of which almost walked over one of our group's shoes! With the weather improving we had great scope views of the **Snow Partridges** and this time you could see colour, feather detail – the works. Brilliant! One final stop as we descended the mountain proved to be worthwhile with a **Chinese Rubythroat** (a recent split from White-tailed Rubythroat) singing from the top of a rock, a pair of **Alpine Leaf-Warblers** and a **Kessler's**

Thrush. When the question was asked “what’s that wren-like thing”, well you guessed it – it was a **Eurasian Wren!**

With all of our targets reached from the higher levels we drove back down to the tunnel, where thick mist still blanketed the area. Both **Blood Pheasant** and **Verreaux’s Monal-Partridge** called in the gloom but were unsurprisingly unresponsive so we drove lower. All of a sudden the mist and low cloud cleared and birds began to sing, so we made the best of it and nailed **Himalayan Bluetail**, **Blue-fronted** and **White-throated Redstarts**, **Chinese Fulvetta**, **Rufous-vented Tit**, both **Collared** and **White-winged Grosbeaks** and several **Himalayan Griffons**. However, all of the previously mentioned species paled into insignificance when a stunning male **Temminck’s Tragopan** suddenly appeared beside the road and ran across a clearing directly opposite us. So we walked up the slope a little and I quietly played the call when amazingly it reappeared and ran across the clearing in front of us. Then it ran back again, walked around behind some leafless bushes, walked back in front of us, and then back again. All of this was just a few metres away from our astonished faces – much too close to photograph really but who’s grumbling? With that in the bag how could you top that? Well you can’t but there’s more birds to find and a **Giant Laughingthrush** posed nicely at the top of a tree a short while later before we headed back to the tunnel area for our picnic lunch. More mist and low cloud descended just when we thought the day was going to brighten up so, once again, we drove lower. However, bird activity was practically zero despite our best efforts with a female **Chinese White-browed Rosefinch** the only new bird over the next couple of hours, so we drove right down to the bottom of the valley where a quick search produced the promised **Chinese Babax** to end the day on a good note and we arrived back at the hotel for an early finish. What a day! We toasted the tragopan with a Wolf Berry spirit that really hit the mark and enjoyed yet another excellent dinner!

Day 11 BALANGSHAN

We woke to clear skies and after our 5am departure reached the tunnel area by 6.15am where we had a fantastic view of the alpine meadows, and snow capped peaks all around. Setting up the scope I quickly



Chinese Monal

found a group of **White Eared-Pheasants** feeding on the hillside above, followed by a **Koklass Pheasant** calling from a large rock above the road. Not a bad start. Then a magnificent male **Chinese Monal** appeared on the skyline and everyone lapped up the scope views, but the best was yet to come. All of a sudden it flew across the hillside towards us, landing directly above us. Wow! It called repeatedly before flying straight down towards us and beyond into the meadow below. It was out of sight but I quietly crawled down and waited and amazingly it walked out into the open. Holy cow! This stunning vision strutted his stuff and paraded right in front of us

before climbing up into a conifer where it called again and again before flying off down into the valley. This was undoubtedly the best views I’ve experienced over the past 6 tours here. I can tell you breakfast tasted fantastic after this!

Then we walked along the road and what a good move this was as, first of all a pair of rare **Sharpe’s Rosefinches** appeared on the bank next to us (good call Daniel) and then a **Golden Bush-Robin** flew up into the top of a conifer and began to sing. Moving around the tunnel area there were several **Common** and

Dark-breasted Rosefinches present, but I was particularly pleased to finally get **Dark-rumped Rosefinch** on my Sichuan list, and a flyby **Lammergeier** is always a crowd pleaser. We even got some views of a calling **Verreaux's Monal-Partridge** way below us, but it disappeared before everyone could get onto it. Before jumping into the coach we saw a pair of **Snow Pigeons** flying across the hillside and a pair of **Chinese White-browed Rosefinches**. Moving lower down the mountain and things were slow with really not much in the way of birdsong, which is surprising for this time of year. We spent several hours getting very little, apart from a pair of **White-throated Redstarts** and a pair of **Collared Grosbeaks**, until eventually I called in a **Chestnut-crowned Bush-Warbler** and it proved to be very responsive and was too close to get a decent photo. Shortly after this I spotted a **Blood Pheasant** crossing a clearing and with a bit of manoeuvring everyone managed to get a view of a pair feeding quietly in the forest.

We took lunch up at the tunnel, where there were a lot more **Snow Pigeons** feeding on the hillside before we drove higher up the mountain. There were flocks of **Grandalas** flying around, **Red-billed Chough** and our first **Alpine Marmots** were particularly pleasing to Steve. We'd done particularly well here and had almost cleaned up but the one blot was **Sichuan Forest Thrush** that had managed to elude us so far. So we tried an area we'd heard one yesterday and after a while we were treated to stunning views in a bare tree – not only a classy bird but it's a *Zoothera* thrush..... Oh and our first **Greenish Warbler** was here as well. And that was our most excellent day over so we returned to the hotel early and enjoyed a bit of r&r.

Day 12 BALANGSHAN - MENGBISHAN

For a travelling day we did quite well with a bunch of good birds found along the way. We even had breakfast in the hotel at 6am before setting off up into the mist enshrouded slopes of Balangshan, travelling through the new tunnel that saved us a lot of time and making our first stop above Rilong. Here, we walked down the road and in the lovely morning sunshine found lots of **Pink-rumped Rosefinches**, as well as our first **Sichuan Tit** and **Tibetan Serin**. Other roadside birds here included **Black-browed Tit**, **Hume's Leaf Warbler**, **Grey-headed Bullfinch**, **Sichuan Leaf Warbler** and others. Our route took us through spectacular deep-sided river valleys and gorges and birds seen en-route included **Black-capped Kingfisher**, **Grey-backed Shrikes**, **Eurasian Crag Martins**, and near a small town a flock of **Salim Ali's Swifts** flew around.

Our next stop overlooking a fast-flowing river and tall crags all around was noteworthy as we enjoyed scope views of the usually tricky **Black-streaked Scimitar-Babbler**, a pair of which were calling back at my iPod for several minutes. We also located a **Wallcreeper**, **Hodgson's Redstart** and had a pair of **Hill Pigeons** whizz past us.

Our driver was obviously on a mission today and we reached our usual lunch stop at a small restaurant pretty much on time despite having to travel a lot further than in previous years. And we made Mengbishan Pass around 3.30pm only to find dark grey skies converging and the distant sound of thunder rapidly approaching. However, not to be perturbed we made the best of things and almost immediately found a flock that contained our first **Streaked Rosefinches** in company with **Chinese Beautiful** and **Chinese White-browed Rosefinches**. They flew away all too quickly but we managed to relocate the **Streaked Rosefinches** again a short while later. Unbelievably we also found several **Verreaux's Monal-Partridges** quite easily and saw at least 3 **Blood Pheasants** quietly feeding out in the open. We drove lower after this but unfortunately the bad weather closed in around us and we had heavy snow and sleet, which curtailed any further birding and we could only hope the situation improves tomorrow.

Day 13 MENGBISHAN

Well today was definitely a day of two halves with the morning bringing us many of the key target species for the area. I already knew that **Sichuan Jay** had proven elusive to some other groups prior to our arrival, so I wasn't confident with that species at all – and yes we failed to see it here. However, our day got off to a cracking start with a **Koklass Pheasant** crossing the road and then walking across a clearing not too far away from us. Oh and we also saw a couple of **Blood Pheasants** at the same spot, before scoping a singing **Long-tailed Thrush**. We tried to drive up above the treeline but the top of the mountain was covered in low cloud

so we headed lower and what a good move this was as we found a close singing **Three-banded Rosefinch** that posed nicely at the top of the roadside conifers. It's a bird I always worry about finding so this was a great relief. And shortly after a **Przevalski's Nuthatch** did the same thing and called back at us from some close trees. Excellent.

So by now the weather had cleared and we enjoyed clear blue skies, so drove up above the treeline and found plenty of **Chinese Beautiful** and some **Pink-rumped Rosefinches**, but its interesting to note there weren't any **Streaked Rosefinches** present like yesterday. We again saw **Verreaux's Monal-Partridge**, but this time there was a pair of **Sichuan Tits**, a pair of cracking **White-browed Tit-Warblers** and Ivan found us a female **Crimson-browed Finch**.

Once were were finished here we walked down along the road into the forest but it was exceedingly quiet, as it proved to be all afternoon. A singing **Long-tailed Thrush** flew past us but the remainder of the day until 5pm when we left was a washout. There were just a lack of birds, either calling or on view. It was devoid of birdlife in the forest. So it was with much relief that we headed back to the hotel..!

Day 14 TIBETAN PLATEAU - RUOERGAI

Well, the weather was very kind to us and we had clear blue skies and sunshine all the way to Ruoergai on the Tibetan Plateau, some 300+ kms from Maerkang. The first notable bird of the day was a **White-throated Dipper** along a fast-flowing river, followed shortly after by our first **Plain Laughingthrush** and **Common Pheasant**. There were also some **White Eared-Pheasants** feeding on a hillside, as well as some **Central Asiatic Red Deer**. We drove up to the very edge of the plateau and had our picnic breakfast overlooking a river where we saw **Siberian Roe Deer** and several **Tibetan Citrine Wagtails**. A little higher we found a **Godlewski's Bunting**, **Chinese Fulvetta**, **Streak-throated Warbler** and **White-browed Tit-Warbler** along the roadside bushes. Finally we hit the plateau and drove across an increasingly wide-open landscape dotted with bushes, rivers and soft rolling hills all around. There were many **Asian Azure-winged Magpies**, **Eurasian Hoopoe**, **Oriental Skylark**, **Ruddy Shelducks**, and some really low-flying **Upland Buzzards**, **Himalayan Griffons** and **Black-eared Kites**. A few pools held some common ducks including **Ferruginous Ducks**, whilst a **Lesser Sandplover** in breeding plumage was scoped and 2 **Black Storks** circled overhead. There were also some **Red-billed Choughs**, **Oriental Crows**, **Northern Ravens** and **Daurian Jackdaws**.



Przevalski's Pinktail by tour participant David Crawshaw

We made very good time and arrived for a very early dumpling lunch in Hongyuan before carrying on, seeing a soaring **Saker**, **Rock Sparrows**, many **Twites**, a flock of **Plain Martins**, and eventually after a bit of a search a group of 4 **Tibetan Grey Shrikes**, with a 5th individual on the opposite side of the road. We then pressed on over the pass and prepared for our search for **Przevalski's Pinktail**, a bird that has caused me some problems during the last couple of tours. Well, within 2 minutes of arriving we were scoping a calling bird from the hillside above

thanks to some great spotting by Jules. And what a performance it gave with a

parachuting display flight right past us. Wow! With this under our belt we then nailed a pair of **Tibetan Snowfinches** bringing food to their young in a hidden nest. And it was only 4.50pm! So we birded along the last 25 kilometres to Ruoergai, making some random stops at some good looking areas. This gave us a **White-browed Tit** in some nearby bushes after making several attempts earlier in the day. Oh and I should

mention the 43 **Black-necked Cranes** we'd counted throughout the day, with some very close roadside birds feeding in the wetlands – a class bird and one everyone wants to see. We finally arrived at the hotel in Ruoergai at 6.10pm.

Day 15 BAXI FOREST – FLOWER LAKE – BAXI FOREST

So the day started very wet and miserable as we staked out our site for **Blue Eared-Pheasant** and unsurprisingly we only heard it. We drove lower but the weather continued in the same vain and despite hanging around for a while there was no sign in it letting up and all we had to show for our efforts was a **Przevalski's Nuthatch**. We made the bold decision to drive to Flower Lake at 10am and upon arrival it was still raining so we ate our second breakfast like good little Hobbits when all of a sudden the weather began to clear. A **White-rumped Snowfinch** suddenly appeared nearby, a **Horned Lark** flew in and landed right in front of our coach in the car park and a **Tiger Shrike** was spotted. Amazingly the rain stopped and whilst waiting for the park bus to leave a trio of **Rufous-necked Snowfinches** flew towards us and landed giving perfect views. Our luck was definitely changing. The short drive to the end of the road was productive with 3 **Sakers** perched on roadside posts and at least 4 **Tibetan Larks** flying past. Down at the lake we enjoyed some nice birding with some notable finds and really scarce birds – **Purple Heron**, 6 **Oriental Pratincoles**, redhead **Smew**, and 4 **Black-necked** and 2 **Slavonian Grebes**. Other birds seen included **Common Pochard**, **Tufted Duck**, **Northern Pintail**, **Great Crested Grebe** on a nest, **Little Grebe**, **Ferruginous Duck**, **Red-crested Pochard**, **White-winged** and **Whiskered Terns**, **Tibetan Wagtails**, **Wood Sandpiper** and others.

It took a while but eventually we had decent scope vies of a **Tibetan Lark** as well. Driving back along the plateau we had amazing close-ups of a **Saker** mobbing an **Upland Buzzard**. We left at 2pm and drove back to Baxi Forest where shortly after our arrival Jules did the business again and spotted a **Blue Eared-Pheasant** feeding quietly in a small meadow and we also found a pair of **Spectacled Parrotbills** and a **Serow**. Also seen this evening were **Yellow-streaked** and **Alpine Leaf Warblers**, **Plain Laughingthrush**, **Chinese Grouse**, and 15 **Oriental Honey Buzzards** migrating north. So quite a day.

Day 16 BAXI FOREST - CHUANZHUSI

With just a few key species to find we headed down to Baxi Forest at 6am and quickly picked up the *robustus* race of **Dusky Warbler** feeding quietly in some roadside bushes, plus an **Eurasian Wryneck** was calling from the top of a small conifer. Further down a pair of **Blue Eared-Pheasants** were seen briefly walking inside the forest before we had our picnic breakfast. Once on the trails we were able to track down a pair of **Crested Tit-Warblers** amidst

much rejoicing having missed it at Mengbishan. Shortly after, a pair of **Maroon-backed Accentors** showed well and began calling from the top of a conifer and then after we'd almost given up hope Jeff spotted a bird sat on a distant conifer that turned out to be the elusive **Sichuan Jay**. We'd actually settled for a rest in a clearing when the bird was seen and over the next half an hour a group of 9 jays flew across the slope above and we enjoyed pretty decent views of a few of them quietly feeding in some much closer trees. It's interesting to note that this species is nowhere near as responsive to tape playback as, say, 3 years ago and is getting harder every year to find. A great deal of luck is needed with this one. And that was us done! There were some common species seen



Snowy-cheeked Laughingthrush

such as **Hume's** and **Sichuan Leaf Warblers**, **Large-billed Leaf-Warbler**, **Chinese White-browed Rosefinch** and last but not least a pair of **Snowy-cheeked Laughingthrushes** appeared close by.

We took an early lunch in the village and then set off on a 3 hour drive to our next hotel at Chuanzhusi and an early finish to the day. Along the way we had a couple close encounters with singing **Siberian Rubythroats** and despite a roadblock we still made it to our hotel by 5.15pm.

Day 17 GONGGANGLING PASS - TANGJIAHE



Pere David's Owl

A misty and drizzly start to the day saw us arrive at our prearranged spot just before daybreak and you really cannot complain with a **Pere David's Owl** staring balefully down at you as your first bird of the day. What an incredible bird and we were treated to prolonged views of it calling from the treetops before we walked on in search of other birds. As if to escort us off its premises this majestic bird followed us for several hundred metres before we were sufficiently far enough away from its territory. I'm sure those deep hoots resonating around the forest will live long in our memories from this fantastic trip. We tried a few other spots around the forest and it was very pleasing that Viv

managed to secure decent looks at **Chinese Grouse**. And there were also **Blue Eared-Peasants**, **Blood Pheasants**, **Rufous-breasted Accentors** and other previously seen species here. We then returned to the hotel to collect our luggage and set off on the 7 hour drive to Tangjiahe, seeing **Black-capped Kingfisher** and a pair of **Collared Crows** along the way.

Our drive into Tangjiahe was truly spectacular with immense tall mountains, deep-sided river valleys and freshly green broadleaf forests leading us into the narrow road that took us to a great hotel. It really was such a big surprise to reach a really good hotel at the end of a long journey. We'd nailed **Brown Dipper**, **Golden Takin** and **Reeve's Muntjac** on the way in, and it was a shame the singing **Alstrom's Warbler** didn't show itself. After another delicious dinner a couple of us went spotlighting and we had a **Masked Palm Civet** cross the road in front of us.

DAY 18 TANGJIAHE

Spent the whole day hiking up into the hills of Tangjiahe and although it was a long, tough slog we had decent weather and the habitat and scenery were outstanding. And the birds weren't too shabby either. A male **Golden Pheasant** approached so close across a meadow that it was a little too close for photos at one stage. There was also a **Sichuan Bush Warbler** calling and seen quite well here. Our path is made up of concrete steps all the way up the mountain and it's slow going with frequent stops to search for birds, but what happened next left us all stunned. I mean, there's two male **Temminck's Tragopans** on the path in front of us, no more than 5 metres away and they just don't care. They are feeding and totally ignoring us, so we watch them for half an hour with cameras clicking away. It's an unbelievable privilege to see these stunning birds so close. Eventually they walk into the bamboo and head away up the hillside. Wow!

We followed this with a close **Spectacled Fulvetta**, **Baikal Bush Warbler** and higher up a pair of superb **Fulvous Parrotbills** showed well. We reached the top around 12:15 and there to greet us were a pair of

Sooty Tits taking food to their hidden nest, so we stayed up here for quite a while to eat our picnic lunch and rest up. The downward journey was enlivened by several **Slaty Buntings** along the path to round off a great walk. Upon arrival back at the hotel, a **Tibetan Macaque** was seen, plus we also had **Brown Dipper**, **Golden-breasted Fulvetta** and a bunch of commoner species. So a successful day with most of our target species seen for this site – time for some beer!

DAY 19 TANGJIAHE

With all major targets done and dusted we had no specific species to search for this morning so before breakfast a few of us walked up the hill across the river and found **White-backed Woodpecker** and **Mountain Bulbul** – both new trip ticks. After breakfast we met up with those of us who had enjoyed a lie in and walked along the river, where we added **Crested Goshawk** and **White-crowned Forktail** to our ever growing list that is now up to 320 species. We also saw another **Spectacled Fulvetta** that was in company with some **Pere David's Fulvettas**, plus there was also **Brown Dipper**, **Streak-breasted Scimitar-babbler**, **Indian Blue Robin**, **Golden Eagle** and **Mountain Hawk-Eagle**. After an 8km walk alongside the river we sure were ready for lunch...!

After lunch and a siesta we drove down the narrow road that runs parallel to the river and found some showy **Alstrom's** and **Sulphur-breasted Warblers**, with the latter species being particularly obliging. But it was probably the **Crested Kingfisher** that was most appreciated by some of the group. We drove back at 5pm to shower, pack and get ready for an early dinner.

DAY 20 TANGJIAHE - CHENGDU

Left the hotel and drove outside of the park and tried for **Chinese Hwamei**, which only appeared briefly. We did add **Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker** to the list and also Dan and I had a very brief view of what must have been a **Rufous Woodpecker** as well. There was also **Pere David's Fulvetta**, **Yellow-bellied Tit**, **Vinous-throated Parrotbill**, **Asian Koel**, some showy **Alstrom's Warblers**, **Brown-breasted Bulbul**, several **Brown Dippers**, **Grey-headed Woodpecker** and plenty more common birds.

Once done here, we set out on the 7 hour drive back to Chengdu where we had our final dinner together and a chance to reminisce about a great tour over a few beers. Oh and there was still some time to walk into the local park and add **House Swift** to our list, which tallied 325 species seen.

Nick Bray



A stunning Golden Pheasant at Tangjiahe

SYSTEMATIC LIST – SICHUAN MAY 2017

H – Heard Only

ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Greylag Goose | <i>Anser anser</i> |
| Ruddy Shelduck | <i>Tadorna ferruginea</i> |
| Gadwall | <i>Anas strepera</i> |
| Mallard | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> |
| Eastern Spot-billed Duck | <i>Anas zonorhyncha</i> |
| Northern Pintail | <i>Anas acuta</i> |
| Eurasian Teal | <i>Anas crecca</i> |
| Red-crested Pochard | <i>Netta rufina</i> |
| Common Pochard | <i>Aythya ferina</i> |
| Ferruginous Duck | <i>Aythya nyroca</i> |
| Tufted Duck | <i>Aythya fuligula</i> |
| Smew | <i>Mergellus albellus</i> |
| Common Merganser | <i>Mergus merganser</i> |

GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Chinese Grouse | <i>Tetrastes sewerzowi</i> |
| Snow Partridge | <i>Lerwa lerwa</i> |
| Verreaux's Monal-Partridge | <i>Tetraophasis obscurus</i> |
| Tibetan Snowcock | <i>Tetraogallus tibetanus</i> |
| Chinese Bamboo Partridge (H) | <i>Bambusicola thoracicus</i> |
| Blood Pheasant | <i>Ithaginis cruentus berezowskii</i> |
| Temminck's Tragopan | <i>Tragopan temminckii</i> |
| Koklass Pheasant | <i>Pucrasia macrolopha ruficollis</i> |
| Chinese Monal | <i>Lophophorus lhuysii</i> |
| White Eared Pheasant | <i>Crossoptilon crossoptilon</i> |
| Blue Eared Pheasant | <i>Crossoptilon auritum</i> |
| Common Pheasant | <i>Phasianus colchicus suehschanensis</i> |
| Golden Pheasant | <i>Chrysolophus pictus</i> |
| Lady Amherst's Pheasant | <i>Chrysolophus amherstiae</i> |

PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Little Grebe | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> |
| Great Crested Grebe | <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> |
| Slavonian Grebe | <i>Podiceps auritus</i> |
| Black-necked Grebe | <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i> |

CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae

| | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Black Stork | <i>Ciconia nigra</i> |
|-------------|----------------------|

PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Black-crowned Night Heron | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> |
| Chinese Pond Heron | <i>Ardeola bacchus</i> |
| Eastern Cattle Egret | <i>Bubulcus coromandus</i> |

Grey Heron
Purple Heron
Great Egret
Little Egret

Ardea cinerea
Ardea purpurea
Ardea alba
Egretta garzetta

SULIFORMES: Microcarbo

Great Cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo

ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae

Lammergeier
Crested Honey Buzzard
Black Baza
Himalayan Griffon Vulture
Mountain Hawk-Eagle
Golden Eagle
Crested Goshawk
Eastern Marsh Harrier
Black-eared Kite
Upland Buzzard
Himalayan Buzzard

Gypaetus barbatus
Pernis ptilorhynchus orientalis
Aviceda leuphotes
Gyps himalayensis
Nisaetus nipalensis
Aquila chrysaetos
Accipiter trivirgatus
Circus spilonotus
Milvus migrans lineatus
Buteo hemilasius
Buteo burmanicus

GRUIFORMES: Rallidae

Common Moorhen
Eurasian Coot

Gallinula chloropus
Fulica atra

GRUIFORMES: Gruidae

Black-necked Crane

Grus nigricollis

CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt

Himantopus himantopus

CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae

Lesser Sand Plover

Charadrius mongolus

CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae

Common Redshank
Common Greenshank (H)
Wood Sandpiper
Common Sandpiper

Tringa totanus
Tringa nebularia
Tringa glareola
Actitis hypoleucos

CHARADRIIFORMES: Glareolidae

Oriental Pratincole

Glareola maldivarum

CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae

Pallas's Gull
Brown-headed Gull
Common Tern
Whiskered Tern
White-winged Tern

Ichthyaeus ichthyaeus
Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus
Sterna hirundo tibetana
Chlidonias hybrida
Chlidonias leucopterus

COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae

Rock Dove

Columba livia

Hill Pigeon
Snow Pigeon
Speckled Wood Pigeon
Oriental Turtle Dove
Spotted Dove
Wedge-tailed Green-Pigeon

Columba rupestris
Columba leuconota
Columba hodgsonii
Streptopelia orientalis orientalis
Spilopelia chinensis
Treron sphenurus

CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae

Asian Koel
Large Hawk-Cuckoo
Lesser Cuckoo
Oriental Cuckoo
Common Cuckoo

Eudynamys scolopaceus
Hierococyx sparverioides
Cuculus poliocephalus
Cuculus saturatus
Cuculus canorus

STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae

Chinese Tawny Owl
Pere David's Owl
Collared Owlet
Little Owl

Strix nivicola
Strix davidi
Glaucidium brodiei
Athene noctua

APODIFORMES: Apodidae

Himalayan Swiftlet
White-throated Needletail
Pacific Swift
Salim Ali's Swift
House Swift

Aerodramus brevirostris
Hirundapus caudacutus
Apus pacificus
Apus salimalii
Apus nipalensis

CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae

Grey Nightjar

Caprimulgus jotaka

CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae

Black-capped Kingfisher
Common Kingfisher
Crested Kingfisher

Halcyon pileata
Alcedo atthis
Megaceryle lugubris

BUCEROTIFORMES: Upupidae

Eurasian Hoopoe

Upupa epops

PICIFORMES: Megalaimidae

Great Barbet

Megalaima virens

PICIFORMES: Picidae

Speckled Piculet
Eurasian Wryneck
Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker
Darjeeling Woodpecker
Great Spotted Woodpecker
White-backed Woodpecker
Grey-headed Woodpecker
Rufous Woodpecker (poss)

Picumnus innominatus
Jynx torquilla
Dendrocopos canicapillus
Dendrocopos darjellensis
Dendrocopos major
Dendrocopos leucotos
Picus canus
Micropternus brachyurus

FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae

Common Kestrel
Saker Falcon

Falco tinnunculus
Falco cherrug

PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae

Black-winged Cuckooshrike
Swinhoe's Minivet
Long-tailed Minivet
Short-billed Minivet

Coracina melaschistos
Pericrocotus cantonensis
Pericrocotus ethologus
Pericrocotus brevirostris

PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae

Tiger Shrike
Brown Shrike
Long-tailed Shrike
Grey-backed Shrike
Tibetan Grey Shrike

Lanius tigrinus
Lanius cristatus lucionensis
Lanius schach
Lanius tephronotus
Lanius sphenocercus giganteus

PASSERIFORMES: Vireonidae

Blyth's Shrike-babbler

Pteruthius aeralatus ricketti

PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae

Black-naped Oriole

Oriolus chinensis

PASSERIFORMES: Dicruridae

Black Drongo
Ashy Drongo

Dicrurus macrocercus
Dicrurus leucophaeus

PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae

Sichuan Jay
Eurasian Jay
Asian Azure-winged Magpie
Red-billed Blue Magpie
Eurasian Magpie
Spotted Nutcracker
Red-billed Chough
Alpine Chough
Daurian Jackdaw
Oriental Crow
Collared Crow
Large-billed Crow
Northern Raven

Perisoreus internigrans
Garrulus glandarius
Cyanopica cyanus kansuensis
Urocissa erythroryncha
Pica pica bottanensis
Nucifraga caryocatactes macella
Pyrhacorax pyrrhacorax himalayanus
Pyrhacorax graculus digitatus
Coloeus dauuricus insolens
Corvus corone orientalis
Corvus torquatus
Corvus macrorhynchos tibetosinensis
Corvus corax tibetanus

PASSERIFORMES: Stenostiridae

Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher

Culicicapa ceylonensis

PASSERIFORMES: Paridae

Fire-capped Tit
Yellow-browed Tit
Rufous-vented Tit
Coal Tit
Yellow-bellied Tit
Grey Crested Tit

Cephalopyrus flammiceps
Sylviparus modestus
Periparus rubidiventris
Periparus ater aemodius
Pardaliparus venustulus
Lophophanes dichrous

White-browed Tit
Pere David's Tit
Sichuan Tit
Ground Tit
Japanese Tit
Green-backed Tit

Poecile superciliosus
Poecile davidi
Poecile weigoldicus
Pseudopodoces humilis
Parus minor minor
Parus monticolus

PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae

Oriental Skylark
Crested Lark
Horned Lark
Tibetan Lark

Alauda gulgula
Galerida cristata
Eremophila alpestris khamensis
Melanocorypha maxima

PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae

Collared Finchbill
Brown-breasted Bulbul
Light-vented Bulbul
Mountain Bulbul
Black Bulbul

Spizixos semitorques
Pycnonotus xanthorrhous
Pycnonotus sinensis
Ixos maclellandii
Hypsipetes leucocephalus leucothorax

PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae

Sand Martin
Pale Martin
Barn Swallow
Eurasian Crag Martin
Asian House Martin
Red-rumped Swallow

Riparia riparia
Riparia diluta tibetana
Hirundo rustica
Ptyonoprogne rupestris
Delichon dasypus
Cecropis daurica

PASSERIFORMES: Pnoepyidae

Chinese Wren-Babbler
Pygmy Wren-babbler

Pnoepyga mutica
Pnoepyga pusilla

PASSERIFORMES: Cettiidae

Rufous-faced Warbler
Brown-flanked Bush Warbler
Yellow-bellied Bush Warbler
Aberrant Bush Warbler
Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler
Chestnut-headed Tesia

Abroscopus albogularis fulvifacies
Horornis fortipes davidiana
Horornis a. acanthizoides
Horornis flavolivaceus intricata
Cettia major
Cettia c. castaneocoronata

PASSERIFORMES: Aegithalidae

Black-throated Bushtit
Black-browed Bushtit
Sooty Bushtit
White-browed Tit-warbler
Crested Tit-warbler

Aegithalos concinnus concinnus
Aegithalos bonvaloti
Aegithalos fuliginosus
Leptopoecile sophiae obscura
Leptopoecile elegans elegans

PASSERIFORMES: Phylloscopidae

Dusky Warbler
Alpine Leaf Warbler
Buff-throated Warbler
Yellow-streaked Warbler

Phylloscopus fuscatus robustus
Phylloscopus occisinensis
Phylloscopus subaffinis
Phylloscopus armandii armandii

Buff-barred Warbler
Ashy-throated Warbler
Hume's Leaf Warbler
Arctic Warbler
Greenish Warbler
Large-billed Leaf Warbler
Claudia's Leaf Warbler
Emei Leaf Warbler
Kloss's Leaf Warbler
Sulphur-breasted Warbler
Sichuan Leaf Warbler
Grey-crowned Warbler
Bianchi's Warbler
Martens's Warbler
Alstrom's Warbler
Chestnut-crowned Warbler

Phylloscopus pulcher pulcher
Phylloscopus maculipennis
Phylloscopus humei mandellii
Phylloscopus borealis
Phylloscopus trochiloides
Phylloscopus magnirostris
Phylloscopus claudiae
Phylloscopus emeiensis
Phylloscopus ogilviegranti disturbans
Phylloscopus ricketti
Phylloscopus forresti
Seicercus tephrocephalus
Seicercus valentini valetini
Seicercus omeiensis
Seicercus soror
Seicercus castaniceps

PASSERIFORMES: Locustellidae

Sichuan Bush Warbler
Spotted Bush Warbler
Baikal Bush Warbler
Brown Bush Warbler

Locustella chengi
Locustella thoracica thoracica
Locustella davidi
Locustella luteoventris

PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae

Striated Prinia (H)

Prinia crinigera

PASSERIFORMES: Timaliidae

Black-streaked Scimitar Babbler
Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler
Rufous-capped Babbler

Pomatorhinus gravivox
Pomatorhinus ruficollis
Stachyridopsis ruficeps

PASSERIFORMES: Pellorneidae

Rusty-capped Fulvetta
David's Fulvetta

Alcippe dubia
Alcippe davidi

PASSERIFORMES: Leiothrichidae

Chinese Babax
Chinese Hwamei
Snowy-cheeked Laughingthrush
Barred Laughingthrush
Giant Laughingthrush
Spotted Laughingthrush
White-throated Laughingthrush
Plain Laughingthrush
Buffy Laughingthrush
White-browed Laughingthrush
Elliot's Laughingthrush
Black-faced Laughingthrush
Red-winged Laughingthrush
Blue-winged Minla
Red-tailed Minla
Emei Shan Liocichla

Babax lanceolatus
Garrulax canorus
Garrulax sukatschewi
Garrulax lunulatus
Garrulax maximus
Garrulax ocellatus
Garrulax albogularis
Garrulax davidi
Garrulax berthemyi
Garrulax sannio
Trochalopteron elliotii
Trochalopteron affine
Trochalopteron formosum
Minla cyanouroptera
Minla ignotincta
Liocichla omeiensis

Red-billed Leiothrix

Leiothrix lutea

PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae

Golden-breasted Fulvetta
Rufous-tailed Babbler
White-browed Fulvetta
Chinese Fulvetta
Spectacled Fulvetta
Grey-hooded Fulvetta
Great Parrotbill
Three-toed Parrotbill
Spectacled Parrotbill
Vinous-throated Parrotbill
Ashy-throated Parrotbill
Grey-hooded Parrotbill
Fulvous Parrotbill
Golden Parrotbill

Lioparus chrysotis
Moupinia poecilotis
Fulvetta vinipectus
Fulvetta striaticollis
Fulvetta ruficapilla
Fulvetta cinereiceps
Conostoma aemodium
Cholornis paradoxa
Sinosuthora conspicillata
Sinosuthora webbiana
Sinosuthora alphonsiana
Sinosuthora zappeyi
Suthora fulvifrons cyanophrys
Suthora verreauxi verreauxi

PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae

Stripe-throated Yuhina
White-collared Yuhina
Japanese White-eye

Yuhina gularis
Yuhina diademata
Zosterops japonicus simplex

PASSERIFORMES: Regulidae

Goldcrest

Regulus regulus yunnanensis

PASSERIFORMES: Troglodytidae

Eurasian Wren

Troglodytes troglodytes szetschuanus

PASSERIFORMES: Sittidae

Eurasian Nuthatch
Przevalski's Nuthatch

Sitta europaea
Sitta przewalskii

PASSERIFORMES: Tichodromidae

Wallcreeper

Tichodroma muraria

PASSERIFORMES: Certhiidae

Hodgson's Treecreeper

Certhia hodgsoni

PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae

Crested Myna
Red-billed Starling
White-cheeked Starling
White-shouldered Starling

Acridotheres cristatellus
Spodiopsar sericeus
Spodiopsar cineraceus
Sturnia sinensis

PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae

Sichuan Forest Thrush
Long-tailed Thrush
Grandala
Chinese Blackbird
Chestnut Thrush
Kessler's Thrush

Zoothera griciceps
Zoothera dixonii
Grandala coelicolor
Turdus merula mandarinus
Turdus rubrocanus gouldi
Turdus kessleri

Chinese Song Thrush

Turdus mupinensis

PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae

Oriental Magpie-Robin

Copsychus saularis

Ferruginous Flycatcher

Muscicapa ferruginea

Chinese Blue Flycatcher

Cyornis glaucicomans

Fujian Fulvetta

Niltava davidi

Verditer Flycatcher

Eumyias thalassinus

White-browed Shortwing (H)

Brachypteryx montana cruralis

Indian Blue Robin

Larvivora brunnea

White-bellied Redstart

Luscinia phoenicuroides

Chinese Rubythroat

Calliope tschebaiewi

Siberian Rubythroat

Calliope calliope

Firethroat

Calliope pectardens

White-tailed Robin

Myiomela leucura

White-browed Bush Robin

Tarsiger indicus yunnanensis

Himalayan Bluetail

Tarsiger rufilatus

Golden Bush Robin

Tarsiger chrysaeus

White-crowned Forktail

Enicurus leschenaulti sinensis

Blue Whistling Thrush

Myophonus c. caeruleus

Yellow-rumped Flycatcher

Ficedula zanthopygia

Slaty-backed Flycatcher

Ficedula hodgsonii

Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher

Ficedula strophata

Ultramarine Flycatcher

Ficedula superciliaris

Slaty-blue Flycatcher

Ficedula tricolor diversa

Sapphire Flycatcher

Ficedula sapphire

Black Redstart

Phoenicurus ochruros rufiventris

Hodgson's Redstart

Phoenicurus hodgsoni

White-throated Redstart

Phoenicurus schisticeps

Daurian Redstart

Phoenicurus aureus

Blue-fronted Redstart

Phoenicurus frontalis

Plumbeous Water Redstart

Phoenicurus fuliginosus

White-capped Redstart

Phoenicurus leucocephalus

Blue Rock Thrush

Monticola solitarius pandoo

Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush

Monticola rufiventris

Eastern Stonechat

Saxicola maurus przewalskii

Grey Bush Chat

Saxicola ferreus

PASSERIFORMES: Cinclidae

White-throated Dipper

Cinclus cinclus przewalskii

Brown Dipper

Cinclus pallasii pallasii

PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae

Mrs. Gould's Sunbird

Aethopyga gouldiae dabryii

PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae

House Sparrow

Passer domesticus

Russet Sparrow

Passer rutilans

Eurasian Tree Sparrow

Passer montanus

Rock Sparrow

Petronia petronia brevirostris

Tibetan Snowfinch

Montifringilla adamsi

White-rumped Snowfinch

Onychostruthus taczanowskii

Rufous-necked Snowfinch

Pyrgilauda ruficollis

PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae

White-rumped Munia

Lonchura striata

PASSERIFORMES: Prunellidae

Alpine Accentor

Prunella collaris

Rufous-breasted Accentor

Prunella strophiatea

Maroon-backed Accentor

Prunella immaculata

PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae

Forest Wagtail

Dendronanthus indicus

Tibetan Citrine Wagtail

Motacilla citreola calcarata

Grey Wagtail

Motacilla cinerea

Black-backed Wagtail

Motacilla alba alboides

Amur Wagtail

Motacilla alba leucopsis

Blyth's Pipit

Anthus godlewski

Olive-backed Pipit

Anthus hodgsoni

Rosy Pipit

Anthus roseatus

PASSERIFORMES: Urocynchramidae

Przevalski's Finch

Urocynchramus pylzowi

PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae

Collared Grosbeak

Mycerobas affinis

White-winged Grosbeak

Mycerobas carnipes

Brown Bullfinch

Pyrrhula nipalensis

Grey-headed Bullfinch

Pyrrhula erythaca

Dark-breasted Rosefinch

Procarduelis nipalensis

Plain Mountain Finch

Leucosticte nemoricola

Brandt's Mountain Finch

Leucosticte brandti

Common Rosefinch

Carpodacus erythrinus roseatus

Streaked Rosefinch

Carpodacus rubicilloides

Chinese Beautiful Rosefinch

Carpodacus davidianus

Pink-rumped Rosefinch

Carpodacus waltoni

Dark-rumped Rosefinch

Carpodacus edwardsii

Sharpe's Rosefinch

Carpodacus verreauxii

Vinaceous Rosefinch

Carpodacus vinaceus

Long-tailed Rosefinch

Carpodacus sibiricus henrici

Three-banded Rosefinch

Carpodacus trifasciatus

Chinese White-browed Rosefinch

Carpodacus dubius

Red-fronted Rosefinch

Carpodacus puniceus

Crimson-browed Finch

Carpodacus subhimachalus

Grey-capped Greenfinch

Chloris sinica

Twite

Linaria flavirostris miniakensis

Tibetan Serin

Spinus thibetana

PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae

Slaty Bunting

Emberiza siemsseni

Godlewski's Bunting

Emberiza godlewskii

Little Bunting

Emberiza pusilla

Yellow-throated Bunting

Emberiza elegans

OTHER ANIMALS

Tibetan Macaque
Pallas's Squirrel
Swinhoe's Squirrel
Himalayan Marmot
Plateau Pika
Siberian Weasel
Yellow-throated Marten
Woolly Hare
Hog Badger
Masked Palm Civet
Tibetan Fox
Red Fox
Golden Takin
Reeve's Muntjac
Central Asian Red Deer
Siberian Roe Deer
Chinese Serow
Wild Boar
Chinese Giant Toad

Macaca thibetana
Callosciurus erythraeus
Tamias swinhoi
Marmota himalayana
Ochotona curzaniae
Mustela sibirica
Martes flavigula
Lepus oiostolus
Arctonyx collaris
Paguma larvata
Vulpes ferrilata
Vulpes vulpes
Budorcas taxicolor bedfordi
Muntiacus reevesi
Cervus wallichii
Capreolus pygargus
Capricornis milneedwardsii
Sus scrofa
Hyla chinensis



There's nothing better than seeing a Temminck's Tragopan - except maybe seeing two together!



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