



# SICHUAN & TIBETAN PLATEAU TOUR REPORT

23<sup>rd</sup> May to 11<sup>th</sup> June 2013

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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

- Lammergeier
- Severtzov's Grouse
- Tibetan Partridge
- Tibetan Snowcock
- Verreaux's Monal-partridge
- Blood Pheasant
- Temminck's Tragopan
- Koklass Pheasant
- Blue Eared Pheasant
- Chinese Monal
- White Eared Pheasant
- Lady Amherst's Pheasant
- Black-necked Crane
- Pere David's Owl
- Black Woodpecker
- Tibetan Lark
- Himalayan Rubythroat
- Firethroat
- White-throated Redstart
- White-bellied Redstart
- Kessler's Thrush
- Emei Shan Liocichla
- Crested Tit-warbler
- White-browed Tit-warbler
- Sukatschev's Laughingthrush
- Barred Laughingthrush
- Red-winged Laughingthrush
- Spectacled Fulvetta
- Spectacled Parrotbill
- Great Parrotbill
- Przewalski's Nuthatch
- Tibetan Grey Shrike
- Sichuan Jay
- Hume's Ground-tit
- Tibetan Snowfinch
- Three-banded Rosefinch

## SUMMARY:

Our Sichuan tour just keeps getting better and better and this year provided us with a wide variety of Chinese endemics, specialities and simply cracking birds. In all we recorded 287 species including many endemics and specialities. We began in Chengdu before heading down to Emei Shan and the new hot-spot of Longcanggou which provided us with such delights as Temminck's Tragopan, lots of phylloscopus and seicercus warblers, numerous bush-warblers, Emei Shan Liocichla and Great and Grey-hooded Parrotbills. We can be a little flexible on this tour as there are just so many great birds to find and every mountain seems to have different possibilities, so with that in mind we visited Erlang Shan and saw Lady Amherst Pheasant, Firethroat, Black-streaked Scimitar-babbler and Barred Laughingthrush. The next site was the fabulous Balang Shan where Chinese Monal, Snow Partridge, Grandala and other high altitude birds were seen. This year Sichuan Jays proved easy at Mengbi Shan and then we found ourselves on the vast Tibetan Plateau, which lived up to all of our expectations. We finished off a wonderful main tour with a Pere David's Owl found in broad daylight. A short extension to Jiuzhaigou gave us Spectacled Fulvetta, Spectacled Parrotbill, Pere David's Tit and others. With some of the most astounding scenery imaginable and a whole host of great birds, Sichuan has it all!

## Days 1 – 2 23<sup>rd</sup> May – 24<sup>th</sup> May

Well we eventually arrived at a sunny Chengdu airport after a long flight from London via Hong Kong and Cathay Pacific were excellent as always. Anyway, we got picked up and transferred to a lovely hotel and soon after walked down the street to the local park. It's a nice little spot here and we quickly picked up a pair of **Yellow-billed (Chinese) Grosbeaks** feeding on the floor of one quiet little side trail. A **Chinese Blackbird** was then picked up and we spent a little time noting down the structural differences which surely prove this is a good split from its European cousin! A flock of **Black-throated Tits** was nice, as was a **Plumbeous Water-redstart**, but not as good as an immature **Red-billed Starling** feeding along one of the drainage channels. We also enjoyed the antics of several **White-browed Laughingthrushes** here, and it is a species that is far easier here than elsewhere. So with that done we walked back to the hotel to get ready for our first experience of the excellent local cuisine.



Slaty-backed Forktail



Yellow-rumped Flycatcher

## Day 3 Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May

This morning we drove down to Emei Shan where the plan was to stay at the base of the mountain to pick up some low elevation species. We had **Rufous-faced Warbler**, at least 11 **Chinese Hwamei**, a brief **Fork-tailed Sunbird**, more **Vinous-throated Parrotbills**, **Red-billed Blue Magpie**, **Brownish-flanked Bush-warbler**, **Slaty-backed Forktail**, **White-capped River-chat**, and a flock of **Pacific & House Swifts** were joined by a **Himalayan Swiftlet**. But overall a rather quiet day.

## Day 4 Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May

We left Emei Shan early and drove a couple of hours to Ya'an where at a nice little site we quickly scored with several flocks of **Ashy-throated Parrotbills**, a pair of **Swinhoe's Minivet**, both **Brown-breasted** and **Yellow-rumped Flycatchers**, plus a few other common species. Then after lunch at a lovely outdoor restaurant along the river we drove to the 'new' site of Longcanggou and drove up the mountain. This is the substitute site for Labahe and Wawu Shan, both of which are closed for the time being. I find it exciting visiting a new place and getting to grips with the tricky warblers, and was pleasantly surprised to find **Kloss's** and **Emei Leaf-warblers** relatively common – as, of course, **Claudia's** was as well. A **Yellow-bellied Tit** was new for us, and being a Chinese endemic all the more special. But when we came round a corner and found Per Alstrom holding a beautiful male **Chinese Blue Flycatcher** – well that was something else! He is mist-netting here and taking blood samples

for dna research and gave us some very useful info which I hope to use tomorrow. Anyway, we continued walking uphill over the 1700m mark, hearing **Marten's Warblers** – but when a **Bianchi's** called and responded very aggressively to the tape well... maybe I should keep that quiet because it shouldn't be at that altitude. Anyway, we walked on up seeing our first raptors, **Crested Goshawk**, **Oriental Honey Buzzard** and even a **Rufous-winged Buzzard** carrying a snake up through the fir trees. And there were both **Large Hawk** and **Lesser Cuckoos** calling in the distance....

## Day 5 Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May

We took just over an hour to drive up to the parking place in Loncanggou Forest Park, and it was a long and bumpy journey. But our 5am departure was worth it, as we found ourselves in bush-warbler heaven – well for some of us anyway! But when you consider we had **Aberrant**, **Grey-sided**, **Brown** and **Yellowish-bellied Bush-warblers** this morning, followed by **Russet** and **Brownish-flanked** in the afternoon then, yes, it was quite good! However, bird of the day was not a bird at all, but after only walking uphill for maybe ten minutes we were eye-balling a wonderful **Red Panda** sat in a Rhododendron tree. How unbelievable was this and even I was excited at this 'non-bird'.... Anyway, continuing higher we took the whole morning to get from 2400m up to around 2800m and the highest point of the trail, which passed through fantastic habitat with wide valleys choked in bushes and bamboo. We got cracking on our warblers as



Red Panda

well today with several **Sichuan Leaf-warblers**, followed by **Ashy-throated** and **Buff-barred Warblers**. At one bamboo choked gully we had a lovely **Grey-hooded Fulvetta** and also got views of **White-bellied Redstart** as well. At the marsh at the top of the pass we had amazing encounter with a **Spotted Bush-warbler**, whilst **Brown Parrotbill** only showed briefly. A **Red-winged Laughingthrush** was a good find, amongst the commoner **Black-faced** and **Elliott's Laughingthrushes**. Also seen during our walk up to the top were **Lesser**, **Oriental**

and **Large Hawk-Cuckoo** and it made a change to actually see them rather than just hear their noise. The undoubted highlight was a brief sighting of the endemic **Grey-hooded Parrotbill**, but not everyone was able to get on it before it disappeared into the mist.

Driving down around 3pm we made an urgent stop when Granville spotted something beside the road, and unbelievably it was a female **Temminck's Tragopan** with 4 young chicks walking up the bank beside us. Wow! Then we walked a side path and had a great hour with, first of all, an unexpected **White-browed Bush-robin**, followed by a flurry of activity prompted by my owlet tape. A cracking male **Gould's Sunbird** came in to investigate, along with **Short-billed Minivet**, several warblers, a pair of **Yellow-browed Tits** and some other common species. So that was our day, apart from seeing both **Grey-backed** and **Long-tailed Shrikes**

and a convoy of **White-throated Needletails** overhead. Both **Collared** and **Oriental Scops-owls** were calling tonight, but not responsive.

## Day 6 Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May

We left slightly later this morning as my plan was to drive up the last half in daylight and be able to hear what birds were singing. This turned out to be a good move when we had the first of several views of **Emei Shan Liocichla** – not an easy bird at all, now Wawu Shan is closed. But on this mountain it was really rather common and spread over quite an altitudinal range. We then spent the rest of the morning searching for parrotbills, and boy we tried really, really hard without a sniff for a long time. Ironically, we only had a pair of **Grey-hooded Parrotbills** (the rarest of the lot here) taking food into what must have been their nest – so the couple of people who missed it yesterday clawed this mega back! A few bursts of owl at various



Grey-hooded Parrotbill

places eventually got us a pair of rather sexy **Golden-breasted Fulvettas** and we got a bunch of birds we'd already seen and I put this slow day down to the weather which was overcast to start and then we had low cloud and mist for the rest of the day, with steady rain all afternoon. A small flock of **Grey-headed Bullfinches** was also noteworthy from this morning as well and gave great views perched in the conifers. As did a **Russet Bush-warbler** that came running into the tape like a mouse and perched up a few times and sang back to us in

the rain. A couple of bizarre sightings today as well, with a flyover **Amur Falcon** (yes really) and a **Black-capped Kingfisher** perched beside the road at around 1700m. Amongst others today we got **Eurasian Nuthatch**, **Aberrant Bush-warbler**, **Red-billed Leiothrix**, **Grey-hooded Fulvetta**, **White-collared Yuhina**, **Verditer Flycatcher**, and another calling **Red-winged Laughingthrush**. So you see, a slow day in my book but quite a few goodies seen.

## Day 7 Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May

A final morning on Longcanggou in search of the magically vanished parrotbills actually scored some success, as Granville found a **Great Parrotbill** as we walked back to the waiting minibus which some of us got brief looks at. I don't know why, but it was a single bird and not in a group as they usually are but it disappeared all too quickly down into the valley below us, not responding to the tape at all. Prior to that we had enjoyed a relatively successful time with Kevin finding a male **Temminck's Tragopan** that unfortunately did not hang around for the rest of us. A fine male **Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher** was new and we had a few flocks of previous seen species, **White-throated Needletails** flying over, a **Spotted Laughingthrush** flew across the path and perched up for us, **Emei Shan Liocichla** showed quite well, and a **Crimson-breasted Woodpecker** was seen. Leaving here we drove down the mountain, stopping to get **Marten's Warbler** and further views of **Emei Leaf-warbler**. A **Chestnut-flanked White-eye** was spotted by Russell as well before we headed on to pastures new and a five hour drive to our next overnight stop. The route passed through spectacular scenery

and we realised just how 'big' this country is! A random roadside stop for a quick leg-stretch proved to be a good move, with **Russet Sparrow** and **Godlewski's Bunting** being found.

## Day 8 Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May

Well what a day today was and after all the worry I felt overnight about whether the police would let us through to the old Erlang Shan road, let's just say I shouldn't have worried. We got through the checkpoint no problem and were driving along just after dawn, and very quickly had a female **Lady Amherst Pheasant** scuttling across the road in front of us. A cracking male showed all too briefly, but just as we were killing the engine to wait for it to reappear a car appeared behind us beeping its horn for us to get out of the middle of the road! I had to ask if anyone had walked under a ladder or run over a black cat recently because how bad was that timing? Anyway, we drove up into the conifers and then had decent views of an immature male **Lady Amherst Pheasant** right in front of us. The relief I felt was almost tangible! As luck would have it there was a grassy verge for us to park on and have breakfast, during which a **Chinese Leaf-warbler** started singing from the top of some



Barred Laughingthrush

nearby conifers, offering good looks. As we munched on jam sandwiches I heard a **Firethroat** singing just a little further up the road. Now this is **THE** bird everyone wants to see, so the pressure was on. It was singing from a small stand of conifers right beside the road and it proved very frustrating as we just couldn't see it, but after 10 minutes or so of hard searching Jenny came up trumps with just about the only window you could see it through. After a frantic bit of

time when everyone jostled for position, we'd all got it. Phew! Unbelievably another one came in to sing in some bushes close by and we could hear two others singing not too far away...! Over the next hour we had repeated views of birds singing from 15 feet up in the trees, but always behind a few pine needles as the pictures can testify to! As we watched this cracker a pair of **Barred Laughingthrushes** began calling and came in to check us out – I was more excited to see them than the fiery-one! What views we had of this notorious skulker in the roadside bushes and then crossing the road and singing back from above us. With **Yellow-streaked Warblers** singing all around and **Godlewski's Buntings** by the bucket load it was just a shame we had to leave so soon. Driving down a calling **Black-streaked Scimitar-babbler** was just too hard to resist and we had brief views, along with **Chinese Babax** and **Brown-breasted Bulbuls** as well. But we had to leave at 9.30am for the oh so long drive to our next hotel at Rilong. Well we arrived at 8pm...! So a long drive, made more complicated by a landslide that blocked the road for ages and two lengthy police checkpoints to negotiate. The scenery, however, was outstanding as we drove along valleys beside fast-flowing rivers with tall mountains all around. But we had a few birds along the way, such as **Himalayan Griffons**, **Daurian Redstarts**, **White-throated Dipper**, **Oriental Turtle-dove**, **Red Collared-dove**, **Hill Pigeons** and others. We thoroughly enjoyed a beer and decent meal tonight but I

felt ever so slightly guilty about breaking the news of our 4.30am departure for the mighty Balang Shan tomorrow.....

## Day 9 Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May

Balang Shan is undoubtedly my favourite site on this tour, but it can frustrate as well as exhilarate in equal measure and we had both today. A 4.30am departure wasn't early enough to get us to the Wood Snipe lek in time so we continued down the mountain and checked out a few sites, at one of which we heard a couple of **Golden Pheasants**. So we drove up to the regular spot for **Chinese Monal** and began scanning and within minutes Russell had one in his scope which was not in the regular area and we were able to look across the valley and more or less down on it. What a bird and in fact we had two more males above us a little later. Frustratingly to begin with we only heard **White Eared-Pheasant** but when a few **Verreaux's Monal-partridges** began calling we walked along the road and within a very short time had a pair calling back at us from close below the road. In fact this was my best views ever and they remained in that same spot, some 40 yards away for ages. But then they walked up the hill towards us and paused in a nice open area to get photos without branches or twigs across them for a change before crossing the road in front of us and creeping up the slope behind



Verreaux's Monal-Partridge

where the male continued to call. Unbelievable! After this exceptional sighting we returned to the monal-viewing spot and continued to walk down the road, finding our first **Chinese White-browed Rosefinch** along the way, plus **White-winged Grosbeak** and plenty of **Common Rosefinches** as well. I just mentioned to Kevin we should check all the white-looking rocks in case they were pheasants when one moved and it was indeed a **White Eared Pheasant!** Excellent. Walking further down the road with a fantastic view of snow-capped mountains and pine clad ridges as far as the eye could see, we had another **Spotted**

**Bush-warbler, Claudia's, Sichuan Leaf, Buff-barred and Large-billed Leaf-warbler, Elliott's Laughingthrush,** before we met up with some French/Belgian birders who showed us a **Musk Deer** in the distance in return for the bush-warbler! We particularly enjoyed a couple of low flying **Lammergeiers** that gave outstanding views. Around the next bend is a spot I usually get **Blood Pheasant** and sure enough it responded quickly and was seen crossing a grassy glade on the slope above, but then sneakily crossed the road way off to our left. The same spot also had **Grey-headed Bullfinch** and a **Maroon-backed Accentor** singing from the top of a conifer. So from here we drove lower and followed a trail beside a fast-flowing river which was choc-full of various warblers – I've never seen so many in one place actually and they were all feeding very low down – the bulk of them were actually **Large-billed Leaf-warblers**. The trail passed through moss-encrusted forest and looked fantastic, but by now it was mid-morning and a little late for any pheasants. But we did find a **Fujian Niltava**, which is a little higher than I would have expected, along with **Slaty-backed Flycatcher** and **Grey-crested Tit**. From here we drove higher on our continuing 'chicken hunt' ie our quest for Snow Partridge and Tibetan Snowcock which drew a blank due to low

cloud obscuring most of the mountain! But we did hear the former species a little later. Once we crossed the pass we were met by clear blue skies for a while and managed to scan the scree slopes where plenty of **Rosy Pipits**, **Plain Mountain-finches**, a brief **Brandt's Mountain-finch**, superb **Grandalas**, **Red-billed** and **Alpine Choughs**. Driving lower when the cloud descended and we had a lovely **Himalayan Rubythroat** singing from on top of a small bush, several **Rufous-breasted Accentors**, and **Alpine Leaf-warbler** all in the same area. We finished up not far from Rilong scanning a cliff where several **Hill Pigeons** were scoped, and amazingly a couple of **Snow Pigeons** were also here too. The **Wallcreepers** weren't at home this evening but **White-throated Redstart** was ample compensation before we returned to the hotel a bit earlier than usual!

## Day 10 Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June

We left ever so early this morning in light rain which I feared had fallen as snow on the mountain, but this wasn't apparent until later as we drove over the pass in darkness. By the time we'd gotten to the **Wood Snipe** display area we had thick mist and steady rain – not conducive to lekking snipe. So we headed down to a quiet little trail after driving the road up and down for a bit to see if any pheasants were loitering on the verges. After a little battle a few of the group managed views of a female

**Golden Pheasant** but the males only called back and didn't budge an inch from their songposts way down the slope. But we did find several **Chinese Fulvettas** along here and heard **White-browed Bush-robin** and **Firethroat**. Driving up I hoped the weather would clear so we stopped along the way for breakfast before continuing ever upwards in our search for more 'chickens'. We finally reached



Grandala

a likely looking area and started to scan the surrounding scree slopes and high peaks all around. Flocks of **Brandt's Mountain-finches** buzzed past us, whilst a few **Plain Mountain-finches** were around for comparison, and there were a few stonking **Grandalas** present which were far more confident than yesterday's birds. We quickly got on a pair of **Snow Partridges** high up the slope above us and watched them scuttle a little closer before stopping on a mossy boulder and calling back to the ipod. It took longer but we'd been hearing **Tibetan Snowcock** for ages before Granville spotted one perched on the skyline about half a kilometre away. As we admired this bird I spotted another two birds a lot closer and we spent quite a while soaking up the scope views – with one bird, presumably the male, calling from a boulder and giving walk away views. So we were on a roll, a chicken roll.... See what I did there..? Anyway, sort of buoyed by our success we headed higher to my stakeout for **Red-fronted Rosefinch** but as we pulled up at the spot it had snowed quite a lot and we found ourselves in low cloud with drizzle. Nice huh! So I couldn't believe my eyes when I noticed some movement in the gloom and found a male **Red-fronted Rosefinch** feeding close by. In fact there was a pair present and we actually had decent views of these huge rosefinches, with several **Alpine Accentors** around as well.

Then we drove lower and parked up by the tunnel where we bumped into Per Alstrom again, and it was nice to enjoy scope views of a **Hog Badger** that John picked up as it fed on the hillside above us. Quite an extraordinary looking animal and one I've wanted to see for years. We spent a pleasant hour in the area notching **Alpine Leaf-warbler**, **Dark-breasted Rosefinch**, a raucous gang of **Giant Laughingthrushes**, 2 **Lammergeiers** and **Chinese White-browed Rosefinch**. So we left here and headed back over the pass before dropping down to an area of bushes beside the road where we enjoyed great views of 3 **Blood Pheasants**, the male calling back at us from a large boulder and initially picked up by Jenny. A major bird for Trevor and with smiles all round we walked back to the waiting coach, having also notched up a pair of **Pink-rumped Rosefinches** as well.

## Day 11 Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

We had the luxury of a 6am breakfast in the restaurant before checking out a few sites close to Rilong, and which turned out to be an extremely pleasant few hours. Around some conifers we saw **Goldcrest**, **Bar-tailed Treecreeper**, plenty of warblers, and best of all a pair of superb **Crested Tit-warblers** that gave very nice views. Along the road we saw several **Common Rosefinches**, as well as a single **Streaked Rosefinch** that literally dwarfed its commoner cousins. With the sun shining and wonderful scenery as always in Sichuan we set



Sichuan Jay

off on our **Black-browed Tit** hunt which was only successful for Trevor and I, and I have no idea why the pair we saw shot off down the slope never to be seen again. But a fine pair of **Rufous-bellied Woodpeckers** was a nice find. So we left on the 5 hour drive to Mengbi Shan, passing through quaint Tibetan-style villages along the way and at one of which we enjoyed a delicious lunch. It was mid afternoon by the time we made it to the mountain and in bright sunshine there wasn't much singing at all, so we made the best of it with nice views of **White-browed** and **Pink-rumped Rosefinches**, **Rufous-vented Tits**, **White-bellied Redstart** and our first **Collared Grosbeaks**. As

we watched a pair of these huge birds at least 3 **Sichuan Jays** emerged from the slope below us and clambered around the conifers, at one stage being chased off by the grosbeaks. Unbelievable! I spent two whole days last year searching this site for these very special endemics, and we had nailed them within the first half an hour of arriving here. In fact we enjoyed repeated views of them for a long time before they flew up the hill and out of sight. So a great start to our time on Mengbi Shan and with a whole day tomorrow I'm hoping we can do quite well....Weather permitting...

## Day 12 Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

Well we drove up onto the mountain and as it slowly began to get light the clouds seemed to be lifting and the day actually dawned fine. I tried my favourite spot for **Koklass Pheasant**

and immediately got a response from way up on the hill above us, so I persisted for quite some time without the bird moving at all and in fact it seemed to go further away. Another was calling from down the road so we walked downhill but had a negative response so didn't loiter and walked back up towards the bus. A few bursts from the ipod resulted in silence, but then a **Blood Pheasant** began calling nearby, with some further calling birds also not too far away. As we settled down to try and get close views of them a flurry of wings right next to us turned out to be a male **Koklass Pheasant** flying right over us and landing next to us on the slope above the road. So you could say I was stunned by this miracle and everyone had superb looks as this obviously confused male strutted across the mossy forest floor above us. I wanted to clench my fist and pump the air but remained outwardly calm! Then we had somewhere in the region of 9 or 10 **Blood Pheasants** rushing around the forest above us, and crossing the road, standing in the middle of the road looking dumb and even watched one bird rushing back across the road, up the slope and calling back to me from a tree stump right above us. Wow! There was literally a 'transfusion of Blood Pheasants' – a collective noun we made up for the show we had just witnessed. I can't tell you how relieved I felt in that moment, but there's always another pressure bird to find on a Sichuan tour. So up we drove to my nuthatch spot and had the best picnic breakfast so far, with everyone more than satisfied with the near-gourmet offerings. Afterwards we hung around waiting to see if any nuthatches would have the good grace to give themselves up easily –



**Blood Pheasant**



**Three-banded Rosefinch**

well no is the answer. Possibly even better was a bird perched right at the top of a conifer giving a call I didn't recognise, and having worked hard on learning the calls I was most excited! Well, I couldn't believe my eyes when I raised my bins and it turned out to be a male **Three-banded Rosefinch** – HOLY COW!! I usually get a bit animated when its something good and probably made some incoherent and inherently unprofessional shout involving a blasphemous statement but who cares? Then a female appeared and an immature male as well, and they kept flying over the road and then returned moments later to land in the trees right above us. Oh yes baby!! From here we drove up higher and it was at this point that the weather deteriorated a little and we had some light drizzle which didn't really hamper

our birding as we had a covey of 5 **Verreaux's Monal-partridges** (isn't Chestnut-throated partridge a better name?) running along the side of the road, some **Pink-rumped** and **White-browed Rosefinches**, **Himalayan Bluetail** and others. But the weather got worse and we decided to drive up to the summit and wait it out, but all I can say is the coffee was the highlight. So we drove down several kilometres and huddled around a fire and ate noodles in

a room that is used by the roadworkers. A very surreal hour was spent, listening to Monty Python and 80's music (oh yes it was Ernie – the fastest milkman in the west) and having the tastiest noodles in the world – whilst the heavens opened outside. But the weather abated and we were able to walk a lovely little trail that often turns up some odd birds. At the start we had a male **Daurian Redstart** and male **Slaty-backed Flycatcher** around the Tibetan prayer flags, and then found our one and only **Slaty-blue Flycatcher**. A **White-browed Fulvetta** came into the owl-call and was a nice surprise amongst the numerous *phylloscs* and **Rufous-vented** and **Sichuan Tits** – it looks nothing like the usual races I'm more familiar with and its got a dark eye...?! In fact it was quite productive along here and it would have been nice to get a view on one of the several **Chinese Song Thrushes** singing away, but it was not to be. As we returned to the coach, John spotted a shrike in the meadow which turned out to be a cracking **Tiger Shrike** in full breeding plumage and was a real scorcher of a bird and something to definitely get excited about. Our last session along a quiet valley gave us great looks at **White-throated Dipper**, lots of **Elliotts Laughingthrushes**, but not much else so we headed to the hotel in good time for our evening meal.

## Day 13 Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June

My favourite day of the tour so far, as we drove from Maerkang up onto the Tibetan Plateau, eventually reaching our excellent hotel at Rouergai in the early evening – and I think this is one the most impressive birding journeys as you cram a lot into 12 hours or so. The scenery was very impressive as we left the pine-clad valleys and reached the wide-open vista of rolling grasslands and soft, rounded hills in the distance.



White-browed Tit-warbler

After breakfast in a roadside restaurant we stopped just on the edge of a forest alongside a mountain river where **Pere David's Laughingthrushes** were seen feeding on the opposite bank and our first **Common Pheasant** was found. No **Ibisbills** were present along the river so we continued upwards until at the edge of the plateau, amidst scrub-choked narrow valleys we found **White-browed (Severtzov's) Tit-warblers** to be rather common and spent some time watching these delightful little sprites, with the males being a resplendent concoction of lilac, purple and pink. Not too long after I was

especially pleased to get good views of a **White-browed Tit** after a few unsuccessful attempts at various places. There was also a nice **Dusky Warbler**, **Olive-backed** and **Richard's Pipits** and our first of many **Rock Sparrows** at the same place. We also had **Yellow-streaked Warbler**, plenty of **Chestnut** and **Kessler's Thrushes**, **Tibetan (Citrine)Wagtails**, **Little Owl**, **Ruddy Shelducks**, **Common Merganser**, **Eurasian Hoopoe**, **Hodgson's Redstart**, **Siberian Stonechat**, **Azure-winged Magpie**, **Twite** and at least 15 **Black-necked Cranes**. At one area we had **Oriental**, **Horned** and at least 6 immense **Tibetan Larks** in a meadow next to the road, and this is the first time I've seen the big beastie

away from Flower Lake. A real surprise find was a pair of **Tibetan (Chinese) Grey Shrikes** along the road and although the birds weren't that close it was a nice view in the scopes. Plenty of **Marmots** and **Pika** were also noted, and a **Red Fox** looked a little out of place during the midday heat.

Raptors were well represented with numerous **Black-eared Kites**, whilst **Upland Buzzards** became increasingly common, and throw in fantastic views of **Himalayan Griffons** and a cracking **Golden Eagle** as well. But the views of a **Saker** nest with five (yes 5) almost fledged young was outstanding, with both adults seen bringing in small rodents for them to feed on. It really was like the things you see on t.v and when an **Upland Buzzard**, which must have had a nest out of sight in the same quarry, flew in the adult **Sakers** dive-bombed it repeatedly. What a show and an immense privilege to witness such nature in the raw.

Getting closer to Rouergai we got very close views of the endemic **Hume's Ground-tit**, which became majorly abundant during the course of the afternoon. But a surprise find came in the shape of a family of **Tibetan Snowfinches** right beside the road to end a particularly fun and enjoyable day.

## Day 14 Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June

It was rather chilly as we stood in the cold early morning air waiting for **Blue Eared-Pheasant** to appear at Baxi Forest. I think we got there a little bit too early but as it got lighter birds started to appear, with **Kessler's** and **Chestnut Thrushes**, **Godlewski's Bunting**, **Black-eared Kites**, **Daurian Jackdaw**, **Eurasian Cuckoo** and others to keep us occupied during the stake-out. The sound of birds singing from the valley below us was phenomenal and it is



Blue Eared-Pheasant

wonderful to listen to the forest waking up, even if you can't feel your fingers! Anyway, scopes were trained on the opposite hillside for the big blue one to appear when all of a sudden there was a flurry of wings and a **Blue Eared Pheasant** unexpectedly flew in and landed on the slope below us. It's the closest and far and away the best view I've ever had of this stunning bird. It remained for a good twenty minutes, feeding quietly below us before walking sedately away into the forest. Wow! Leaving here, we drove to my

favourite part of this lovely forest and within just a few minutes walk a **Chinese Nuthatch** flew in and landed right above us giving excellent views. Then I'm sure I've got a response from **Prezavalski's Nuthatch** and sure enough just a few conifers away there it is! A huge double-whammy and smiles all around. Just then some movement in a near bush leads us to a pair of **Tibetan Siskins** feeding quietly.

So we are on a roll and walk into the forest where a high pitched noise has us freezing. Surely it can't be a **Chinese Grouse**? I ran around in a large loop to try and flush it towards my group, but as I hit a trail going in the right direction something scuttles off up ahead and there's the grouse (in fact 3 of them). So I backed off slowly before running down to the group, passing a **Sichuan Jay** on the way and we go on a grouse hunt, but to no avail, although a **Black Woodpecker** is some compensation. So I'm thinking we should return early doors tomorrow.

So then we drove lower to a nice little valley where I want to get **Gansu Leaf-warbler** but the weather is having other ideas. We are now experiencing cold weather and drizzle. This isn't good for singing warblers but within 100m of our walk along the track there's one calling, but it doesn't play ball at all. Further along another sings but unlike last year when they went mad at my ipod this time they don't respond. But after a while one comes in and calls a little and we get decent looks at it. Further along the track we get a surprise in a **Pallas's Leaf-warbler**, plus a few other things like **Godlewski's Bunting**, **Common Rosefinch** etc. But there's not a lot else and as we walk back the heavens open and it pours down, getting us soaking wet.



**Rufous-necked Snowfinch**

After lunch at a local restaurant, a quick few minutes back at the hotel to change into drier clothes and we're off to Flower Lake with blue skies all of a sudden. I'm feeling the pressure to find snowfinches along the road and wondering just how this will pan out. Lucky for me then that something flies up from the roadside and we screech to a halt, reverse and wow, there's a **Rufous-necked Snowfinch**! A mad minute of giving directions to a bird 30 yards away ensues before calm returns and then I spot a **White-rumped Snowfinch** further away. Amazingly both species prove to be common along the road this year, with the latter species especially so. We watch our first ones for a while and really enjoy seeing them chasing the **Pikas** from their burrows.

Up at the lake we take the park bus 3kms down to the boardwalk and spend an enjoyable time scanning the water and marshes, surrounded by fantastic wide open grasslands complimented by huge snow-capped mountains on the horizon. Out on the lake we saw **Red-crested Pochard**, **Ferruginous Duck**, **Greylag Goose** and other common things. A **Great Bittern** flying over the marsh is a bit bizarre, and another heard booming surely means they breed here. A **Purple Heron** and a few **White-winged Terns** are new for the tour, whilst lots of egrets, **Black-necked Cranes**, **Lesser Sandplovers**, **Tibetan Wagtails**, **Tibetan Larks**, **Common Terns** and others make for a rewarding time here. A late migrant **Arctic Warbler** sheltering under the boardwalk was truly bizarre and just goes to show you never know what to expect here. As we drive back to the hotel a few **Upland Buzzards** are noted and we arrive back tired but very happy with the day.

## Day 15 Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June

This was the morning of the great grouse hunt as we scoured Baxi Forest for **Severtzov's (Chinese) Grouse** and is one of those sessions that either produces the goods or absolutely nothing. Well, it started off slowly as we crept quietly up a promising forest ride, and with only a quick view of **Blood Pheasant** and **Black Woodpecker** to show for it. After an hour of walking up and down the forested hillside it was only natural that we would split into smaller



Sukatschev's Laughingthrush

groups, however nothing much happened for a while. A couple of us walked up a relatively steep ride into the hill and as I was tinkering with a singing **White-bellied Redstart**, Lynne spotted a bird feeding quietly on the grassy floor behind me. As I turned around I couldn't believe my eyes as it was the endemic **Sukatschev's Laughingthrush** – not your average endemic, but the rarest of the lot here in Sichuan. It was just hopping around in the open about 15 feet away and didn't care we were there. Of course I'd left the camera in the coach! So I ran back down the hillside to find the rest of

the group, seeing nobody until I made it all the way back to the coach and rounded up a few people. Some time later we had made it back up the hill and after an anxious wait the laughingthrush reappeared to our relief. But with a couple of the guys still M.I.A I ran back down to the bottom of the hill again and found Trevor and Kevin and I slowly crawled back up the hill for a 3<sup>rd</sup> time, which made me feel really ill at this altitude. The bird had disappeared but we relocated it a little later and had crippling views as it called from a small bushy tree. As we celebrated, a movement off to our left in the shadows caught my eye and I turned and saw the elusive pimpernel (I mean grouse!) run across a clearing. Shouting to the guys to follow it I ran up the hill and cut across the hill, through dense thorn and birch-type scrub to try and head it off and as I headed down Trevor & Kevin said they'd seen it. What a relief! As we headed down the hill the others were coming up and wanted a crack at the grouse, so up I went for a 4<sup>th</sup> time and it was now that I felt very sick. Needless to say the grouse weren't around so we finally got to the coach for a breakfast at 10am!



Tibetan Partridge

We then decided to return to 'Gansu Valley' but that proved to be quiet again so went to a nearby restaurant.

Afterwards we drove slowly back up towards the plateau and I decided to stop at a favourite little spot of mine, and what an excellent decision it was. Just as we were trying to suss out a potential new rosetfinch for the tour, Keith shouted the immortal word “PARTRIDGE” which took a few seconds to register with me. But then we ran up to his position and after frantic directions a pair of **Tibetan Partridges** were found – omg! I’ve always wanted to see this bird but never really knew where to look for it in Sichuan – its like a needle in a haystack being so scarce here. But here we were, about 40 yards from two absolutely stunning beauties. The magnitude of our sighting took a little while to sink in and we enjoyed 10 minutes on the birds as they picked their way up a small bank and disappeared into the bushes. YES!! There was also an obliging pair of **White-browed Tit-warblers** here, another **White-browed Tit** and several **Alpine Leaf-warblers**. We were on a high for a while and with the rare laughingthrush and partridge in the bag it had been a very good day. All that was left was to drive to our next hotel for the night, pausing along the way to get **Siberian Rubythroat** which proved to be a little elusive initially before sitting on top of a bush singing its heart out.

## Day 16 Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June

After yesterdays mega tick I was quite looking forward to a relatively calm day but this was not to be the case. We arrived at the far side of Gongangglin Forest just after sunrise and set about our **Chinese Grouse** hunt and after waiting at a clearing for a while we got distracted by a singing **Long-tailed Thrush** which didn’t perform as we would have liked. So at that point we split into smaller ‘teams’ and headed in different directions. A few of us searched for



Pere David's Owl

thrushes but only had **Tibetan Siskin** and a few other common species, but as we got back to the coach for breakfast Keith was waiting and offering me his camcorder to see what he’d just filmed. Well, after the shock of seeing a **Pere David’s Owl** staring back at me from his view finder we literally legged it to the last known spot with his wife, Lynne, leading us to the correct point. Fortunately a few others were there already looking for grouse – and then the beast called, a deep double-hoot. Must admit I had the old ‘shakey-hand’ syndrome as the bird

continued to call for half an hour and I fired off a few notes from the I-pod but it just called back. Finally it flew and we had our first glimpse of this mythical forest-ghost. Well, it gave us the run-around after that initial sighting and eventually it flew off up the hill and out of sight, but continued to call in the distance. I wasn’t for giving up and after a protracted and exhausting trek up a steep slope we had it perched next to a tree trunk, but we were looking through bushes so it wasn’t a clear view at all. So we headed back to the coach for breakfast, but one person had been missing throughout all this. So I dragged Russell back up the hill and into the forest where the bird was still calling at 10am (!) and within a matter of seconds

we had the beastie close by on a bare branch right in front of us – time to celebrate this ‘once-in-a-lifetime’ bird with clenched fist and a little dance...!

So we then said goodbye to 3 of our team before heading off to Jiuzhaigou where a few **Spectacled Fulvettas** were a good addition to our list before an early night.

## Days 17 - 18 **JIUZHAIGOU EXTENSION**

We spent a couple of days in the national park where the main target was **Rufous-headed Robin**. Rather frustratingly it appeared the birds at the usual site had been taped out by other tour groups and individuals and had stopped responding. So despite hearing it sing and one ultra-brief sighting we unfortunately dipped on this mega - and in hindsight spent far too long searching for it. We did score with nice views of **Pere David’s Tit**, **Spectacled Parrotbill** and **Indian Blue Robin** during the course of our visit, plus a number of previously seen species as well. The scenery is truly spectacular here, but there were thousands of local tourists visiting here each day, queues everywhere, plus long walks coupled with a frustrating system of only using designated park buses and bus stops means it is very frustrating to get from one location to another.....

## Day 19 Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June

Yes a long drive to Chengdu indeed, almost ten hours in all but we eventually arrived around 6pm and enjoyed our final meal together before flying back to the UK the following day.

Nick Bray.



Balang Shan

# BIRDLIST FOR SICHUAN & TIBETAN PLATEAU MAY/JUNE 2013

	SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME
	<b>E – Endemic</b> <b>BE - Breeding Endemic</b> <b>NE - Near Endemic</b>	
1.	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
2.	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
3.	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
4.	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
5.	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
6.	Great Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>
7.	Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>
8.	Chinese Pond-heron	<i>Ardeola bacchus</i>
9.	Black-crowned Night-heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
10.	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
11.	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>
12.	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>
13.	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>
14.	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
15.	Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>
16.	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Rhodonessa rufina</i>
17.	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>
18.	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>
19.	Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>
20.	Black-eared Kite	<i>Milvus migrans lineatus</i>
21.	Lammergeier	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>
22.	Himalayan Griffon	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>
23.	Oriental Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>
24.	Crested Goshawk	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>
25.	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
26.	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>
27.	Himalayan Buzzard	<i>Buteo burmanicus</i>
28.	Upland Buzzard	<i>Buteo hemilasius</i>
29.	Rufous-winged Buzzard	<i>Butastur liventer</i>
30.	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>
31.	Amur Falcon	<i>Falco amurensis</i>
32.	Saker Falcon	<i>Falco cherrug</i>
33.	<b>Severtzov's (Chinese) Grouse</b> E	<i>Tetrastes sewerzowi</i>
34.	Snow Partridge	<i>Lerwa lerwa</i>
35.	Tibetan Partridge	<i>Perdix hodgsoniae</i>
36.	Tibetan Snowcock	<i>Tetraogallus tibetanus</i>
37.	<b>Verreaux's Monal Partridge</b> E	<i>Tetraophasis obscurus</i>
38.	<b>Chinese Bamboo-partridge</b> (H) E	<i>Bambusicola thoracica</i>
39.	Blood Pheasant	<i>Ithaginis cruentus</i>
40.	<b>Temminck's Tragopan</b> NE	<i>Tragopan temminckii</i>

41.	Koklass Pheasant		<i>Pucrasia macrolopha ruficollis</i>
42.	<b>Chinese Monal</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Lophophorus lhuysii</i>
43.	<b>White Eared-Pheasant</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Crossoptilon crossoptilon</i>
44.	<b>Blue Eared-Pheasant</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Crossoptilon auritum</i>
45.	Common Pheasant		<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
46.	<b>Golden Pheasant</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Chrysolophus pictus</i>
47.	<b>Lady Amherst's Pheasant</b>	<b>NE</b>	<i>Chrysolophus amherstiae</i>
48.	White-breasted Waterhen		<i>Amauornis phoenicurus</i>
49.	Eurasian Coot		<i>Fulica atra</i>
50.	<b>Black-necked Crane</b>	<b>NE</b>	<i>Grus nigricollis</i>
51.	Common Redshank		<i>Tringa totanus</i>
52.	Lesser Sandplover		<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>
53.	Brown-headed Gull		<i>Larus brunnicephalus</i>
54.	Common Tern		<i>Sterna hirundo tibetana</i>
55.	White-winged Tern		<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>
56.	Rock Pigeon		<i>Columbia livia</i>
57.	Hill Pigeon		<i>Columba rupestris</i>
58.	Snow Pigeon		<i>Columba leuconota</i>
59.	Speckled Woodpigeon		<i>Columba hodgsonii</i>
60.	Oriental Turtle-dove		<i>Streptopelia orientalis orientalis</i>
61.	Spotted Dove		<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>
62.	Red Collared Dove		<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>
63.	Large Hawk-cuckoo		<i>Hierococcyx sparveroides</i>
64.	Hodgson's Hawk-cuckoo (H)		<i>Hierococcyx nisicolor</i>
65.	Eurasian Cuckoo		<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
66.	Oriental Cuckoo		<i>Cuculus saturatus</i>
67.	Lesser Cuckoo		<i>Cuculus poliocephalus</i>
68.	Asian Koel		<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>
69.	<b>Pere David's Owl</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Strix davidi</i>
70.	Oriental Scops-owl (H)		<i>Otus sunia</i>
71.	Collared Scops-owl (H)		<i>Otus lettia</i>
72.	Little Owl		<i>Athene noctua</i>
73.	Grey Nightjar		<i>Caprimulgus jotaka</i>
74.	Himalayan Swiftlet		<i>Collocalia brevirostris</i>
75.	White-throated Needletail		<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>
76.	Pacific Swift		<i>Apus pacificus</i>
77.	Salim Ali's Swift		<i>Apus salimali</i>
78.	House Swift		<i>Apus nipalensis</i>
79.	Common Kingfisher		<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
80.	Black-capped Kingfisher		<i>Halcyon pileata</i>
81.	Eurasian Hoopoe		<i>Upupa epops</i>
82.	Rufous-bellied Woodpecker		<i>Dendrocopos hyperythrus</i>
83.	Crimson-breasted Woodpecker		<i>Dendrocopos cathpharius</i>
84.	Great Spotted Woodpecker		<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
85.	Black Woodpecker		<i>Dryocopus martius</i>
86.	Grey-headed Woodpecker		<i>Picus canus</i>
87.	<b>Tibetan Lark</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Melanocorypha maxima</i>
88.	Oriental Skylark		<i>Alauda gulgula</i>
89.	Horned Lark		<i>Eremophila alpestris khamensis</i>

90.	Sand Martin		<i>Riparia riparia</i>
91.	Eurasian Crag-martin		<i>Hirundo rupestris</i>
92.	Barn Swallow		<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
93.	Red-rumped Swallow		<i>Hirundo daurica</i>
94.	Asian House Martin		<i>Delichon dasypus</i>
95.	Olive-backed Pipit		<i>Anthus hodgsoni hodgsoni</i>
96.	Richard's Pipit		<i>Anthus richardi</i>
97.	Rosy Pipit		<i>Anthus roseatus</i>
98.	Forest Wagtail		<i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>
99.	Himalayan White Wagtail		<i>Motacilla alba alboides</i>
100.	Tibetan (Citrine) Wagtail		<i>Motacilla citreola calcarata</i>
101.	Grey Wagtail		<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
102.	Long-tailed Minivet		<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>
103.	<b>Swinhoe's Minivet</b>	<b>BE</b>	<i>Pericrocotus cantonensis</i>
104.	Short-billed Minivet		<i>Pericrocotus brevirostris</i>
105.	<b>Collared Finchbill</b>	<b>NE</b>	<i>Spizixos semitorques</i>
106.	Light-vented (Chinese) Bulbul		<i>Pycnonotus sinensis</i>
107.	Brown-breasted Bulbul		<i>Pycnonotus xanthorrhous</i>
108.	Mountain Bulbul		<i>Hypsipetes maclellandii</i>
109.	Himalayan Black Bulbul		<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>
110.	White-throated Dipper		<i>Cinclus cinclus przewalskii</i>
111.	Brown Dipper		<i>Cinclus pallasii</i>
112.	Eurasian Wren		<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
113.	Maroon-backed Accentor		<i>Prunella immaculata</i>
114.	Rufous-breasted Accentor		<i>Prunella strophiatea</i>
115.	Alpine Accentor		<i>Prunella collaris</i>
116.	Siberian Rubythroat		<i>Luscinia calliope</i>
117.	White-tailed Rubythroat		<i>Luscinia pectoralis tschebaiewi</i>
118.	<b>Firethroat</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Luscinia pectardens</i>
119.	Indian Blue Robin (H)		<i>Luscinia brunnea</i>
120.	<b>Rufous-headed Robin (H)</b>		<i>Luscinia ruficeps</i>
121.	Himalayan Bluetail		<i>Tarsiger rufilatus</i>
122.	White-browed Bush-robin		<i>Tarsiger indicus yunnanensis</i>
123.	Oriental Magpie-robin		<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
124.	Black Redstart		<i>Phoenicurus ochruros rufiventris</i>
125.	Hodgson's Redstart		<i>Phoenicurus hodgsoni</i>
126.	Blue-fronted Redstart		<i>Phoenicurus frontalis</i>
127.	White-throated Redstart		<i>Phoenicurus schisticeps</i>
128.	Daurian Redstart		<i>Phoenicurus aureus</i>
129.	Plumbeous Water-redstart		<i>Rhyacornis fuliginosus</i>
130.	White-capped Water-redstart		<i>Chaimarrornis leucocephalus</i>
131.	White-bellied Redstart		<i>Hodgsonius phoenicuroides</i>
132.	White-tailed Robin (H)		<i>Myiomela leucurum</i>
133.	Grandala		<i>Grandala coelicolor</i>
134.	Siberian Stonechat		<i>Saxicola maura przewalskii</i>
135.	Blue Rock-thrush		<i>Monticola solitaries pandoo</i>
136.	Blue Whistling-thrush		<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>
137.	Long-tailed Thrush (H)		<i>Zoothera dixonii</i>
138.	Plain-backed Thrush		<i>Zoothera mollissima</i>

139.	Chinese Blackbird		<i>Turdus mandarinus</i>
140.	Chestnut Thrush		<i>Turdus rubrocanus</i>
141.	<b>Kessler's Thrush</b>	<b>BE</b>	<i>Turdus kessleri</i>
142.	<b>Chinese Song Thrush (H)</b>	<b>BE</b>	<i>Turdus mupinensis</i>
143.	Slaty-backed Forktail		<i>Enicurus schistaceus</i>
144.	White-crowned Forktail		<i>Enicurus leschenaultia sinensis</i>
145.	Brown-flanked Bush-warbler		<i>Horornis fortipes davidiana</i>
146.	Aberrant Bush-warbler		<i>Horornis flavolivaceus intricata</i>
147.	Yellowish-bellied Bush-warbler		<i>Horornis acanthizoides</i>
148.	Spotted Bush-warbler		<i>Locustella thoracicus</i>
149.	Brown Bush-warbler		<i>Locustella luteoventris</i>
150.	Russet Bush-warbler		<i>Locustella mandelli mandelli</i>
151.	Grey-sided Bush-warbler		<i>Cettia brunnifrons</i>
152.	Grey-crowned warbler		<i>Seicercus tephrocephalus</i>
153.	<b>Marten's Warbler</b>	<b>BE</b>	<i>Seicercus omeiensis</i>
154.	Bianchi's Warbler		<i>Seicercus valentini valentini</i>
155.	Rufous-faced Warbler		<i>Abroscopus albogularis</i>
156.	Kloss's Leaf-warbler		<i>Phylloscopus ogilviegranti</i>
157.	<b>Claudia's Leaf-warbler</b>	<b>BE</b>	<i>Phylloscopus claudiae</i>
158.	<b>Emei Leaf-warbler</b>	<b>BE</b>	<i>Phylloscopus emeiensis</i>
159.	<b>Gansu Leaf-warbler</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Phylloscopus kansuensis</i>
160.	Arctic Warbler		<i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>
161.	Pallas's Warbler		<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>
162.	Large-billed Leaf-warbler		<i>Phylloscopus magnirostris</i>
163.	Buff-barred Warbler		<i>Phylloscopus pulcher pulcher</i>
164.	Ashy-throated Warbler		<i>Phylloscopus maculipennis</i>
165.	<b>Sichuan Leaf-warbler</b>	<b>BE</b>	<i>Phylloscopus sichuanensis</i>
166.	<b>Chinese Leaf-warbler</b>	<b>BE</b>	<i>Phylloscopus yunnanensis</i>
167.	Hume's Leaf-warbler		<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>
168.	Yellow-streaked Warbler		<i>Phylloscopus armandii</i>
169.	Dusky Warbler		<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus weigoldi</i>
170.	<b>Alpine Leaf-warbler</b>	<b>BE</b>	<i>Phylloscopus occisinensis</i>
171.	Buff-throated Warbler		<i>Phylloscopus subaffinis</i>
172.	Chestnut-headed Tesia		<i>Tesia castaneocoronata</i>
173.	Goldcrest		<i>Regulus regulus yunnanensis</i>
174.	White-browed Tit-Warbler		<i>Leptopoecile sophiae obscura</i>
175.	<b>Crested Tit-Warbler</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Leptopoecile elegans</i>
176.	Fujian Niltava		<i>Niltava davidi</i>
177.	Chinese Blue Flycatcher		<i>Cyornis glaucicomans</i>
178.	Verditer Flycatcher		<i>Eumyias thalassina</i>
179.	Ferruginous Flycatcher		<i>Muscicapa ferruginea</i>
180.	Dark-sided Flycatcher		<i>Muscicapa sibirica</i>
181.	Brown-breasted Flycatcher		<i>Muscicapa muttui</i>
182.	Yellow-rumped Flycatcher		<i>Ficedula zanthopygia</i>
183.	Slaty-blue Flycatcher		<i>Ficedula tricolor diversa</i>
184.	Slaty-backed Flycatcher		<i>Ficedula hodgsonii</i>
185.	Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher		<i>Ficedula strophciata</i>
186.	Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher		<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>
187.	Asian Paradise-flycatcher		<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>

188.	<b>Pere David's Laughingthrush</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Garrulax davidi</i>
189.	<b>Sukatshev's Laughingthrush</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Garrulax sukatschewi</i>
190.	<b>Barred Laughingthrush</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Garrulax lunulatus</i>
191.	<b>Giant Laughingthrush</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Garrulax maximus</i>
192.	Spotted Laughingthrush (H)		<i>Garrulax ocellatus</i>
193.	White-browed Laughingthrush		<i>Garrulax sannio</i>
194.	<b>Elliot's Laughingthrush</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Garrulax elliotii</i>
195.	Black-faced Laughingthrush		<i>Garrulax affinis</i>
196.	<b>Red-winged Laughingthrush</b>	<b>NE</b>	<i>Garrulax formosus</i>
197.	<b>Emei Shan Liocichla</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Liocichla omeiensis</i>
198.	<b>Chinese Hwamei</b>	<b>NE</b>	<i>Garrulax canorus</i>
199.	Black-streaked Scimitar-babbler		<i>Pomatorhinus erythrocnemis</i>
200.	Streak-breasted Scimitar-babbler		<i>Pomatorhinus ruficollis</i>
201.	Rufous-capped Babbler (H)		<i>Stachyris ruficeps</i>
202.	Red-billed Leiothrix		<i>Leiothrix lutea</i>
203.	<b>Chinese Babax</b>	<b>NE</b>	<i>Babax lanceolatus</i>
204.	Golden-breasted Fulvetta		<i>Alcippe chrysotis</i>
205.	<b>Chinese Fulvetta</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Alcippe striaticollis</i>
206.	White-browed Fulvetta		<i>Alcippe vinipectus</i>
207.	<b>Grey-hooded Fulvetta</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Alcippe cinereiceps</i>
208.	David's Fulvetta		<i>Alcippe davidi</i>
209.	<b>Spectacled Fulvetta</b>		<i>Alcippe ruficapilla</i>
210.	Stripe-throated Yuhina		<i>Yuhina gularis</i>
211.	<b>White-collared Yuhina</b>	<b>NE</b>	<i>Yuhina diademata</i>
212.	Great Parrotbill		<i>Conostoma aemodium</i>
213.	Vinous-throated Parrotbill		<i>Paradoxornis webbianus</i>
214.	Ashy-throated Parrotbill		<i>Paradoxornis alphonsianus</i>
215.	<b>Grey-hooded Parrotbill</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Paradoxornis zappeyi</i>
216.	Brown Parrotbill		<i>Paradoxornis unicolor</i>
217.	Spectacled Parrotbill		<i>Paradoxornis conspicillatus</i>
218.	Black-throated Tit		<i>Aegithalos concinnus concinnus</i>
219.	Yellow-browed Tit		<i>Sylviparus modestus</i>
220.	<b>White-browed Tit</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Parus superciliosus</i>
221.	<b>Sichuan Tit</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Parus weigoldi</i>
222.	Grey-crested Tit		<i>Parus dichrous</i>
223.	<b>Pere David's Tit</b>		<i>Parus davidi</i>
224.	<b>Yellow-bellied Tit</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Parus venustulus</i>
225.	Coal Tit		<i>Parus ater aemodius</i>
226.	Japanese Tit		<i>Parus major minor</i>
227.	Rufous-vented Tit		<i>Parus rubidiventris</i>
228.	Green-backed Tit		<i>Parus monticolus</i>
229.	<b>Black-browed Tit</b>	<b>NE</b>	<i>Aegithalos bonvaloti obscurati</i>
230.	<b>Przewalski's Nuthatch</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Sitta przewalskii</i>
231.	Eurasian Nuthatch		<i>Sitta europaea</i>
232.	Chinese Nuthatch		<i>Sitta villosa bangsi</i>
233.	Wallcreeper		<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>
234.	Bar-tailed Treecreeper		<i>Certhia himalayana</i>
235.	Gould's Sunbird		<i>Aethopyga gouldiae dabryii</i>
236.	Fork-tailed Sunbird		<i>Aethopyga christinae latouchii</i>

237.	Fire-breasted Flowerpecker		<i>Dicaeum ignipectus</i>
238.	Chestnut-flanked White-eye		<i>Zosterops erythropleurus</i>
239.	Japanese White-eye		<i>Zosterops japonicas simplex</i>
240.	Tiger Shrike		<i>Lanius tigrinus</i>
241.	Long-tailed Shrike		<i>Lanius schach schach</i>
242.	Grey-backed Shrike		<i>Lanius tephronotus</i>
243.	<b>Chinese (Tibetan) Grey Shrike</b>	<b>NE</b>	<i>Lanius sphenocercus giganteus</i>
244.	Ashy Drongo		<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>
245.	Spangled Drongo		<i>Dicrurus hottentottus brevirostris</i>
246.	<b>Sichuan Jay</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Perisoreus internigrans</i>
247.	Eurasian Jay		<i>Garrulus glandarius sinensis</i>
248.	Azure-winged Magpie		<i>Cyanopica cyana kansuensis</i>
249.	Red-billed Blue Magpie		<i>Urocissa erythrorhyncha</i>
250.	Black-billed Magpie		<i>Pica pica</i>
251.	Spotted Nutcracker		<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>
252.	Red-billed Chough		<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>
253.	Yellow-billed Chough		<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus digitatus</i>
254.	Daurian Jackdaw		<i>Corvus dauurica insolens</i>
255.	Oriental (Carrion) Crow		<i>Corvus corone orientalis</i>
256.	Large-billed Crow		<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>
257.	Common Raven		<i>Corvus corax tibetanus</i>
258.	<b>Hume's Ground-tit</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Pseudopodoces humilis</i>
259.	Crested Myna		<i>Acridotheres cristatellus</i>
260.	Javan Myna		<i>Acridotheres javanicus</i>
261.	<b>Red-billed Starling</b>	<b>BE</b>	<i>Sturnus sericeus</i>
262.	White-rumped Munia		<i>Lonchura striata</i>
263.	Eurasian Tree Sparrow		<i>Passer montanus</i>
264.	Rock Sparrow		<i>Petronia petronia</i>
265.	Russet Sparrow		<i>Passer rutilans</i>
266.	White-rumped Snowfinch		<i>Pyrgilauda taczanowskii</i>
267.	Black-winged (Tibetan) Snowfinch		<i>Montifringilla adamsi</i>
268.	Rufous-necked Snowfinch		<i>Pyrgilauda ruficollis</i>
269.	Plain Mountain-Finch		<i>Leucosticte nemoricola</i>
270.	Brandt's Mountain Finch		<i>Leucosticte brandti</i>
271.	Dark-breasted Rosefinch		<i>Carpodacus nipalensis</i>
272.	Common Rosefinch		<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>
273.	<b>Chinese Beautiful Rosefinch</b>	<b>NE</b>	<i>Carpodacus davidianus</i>
274.	<b>Pink-rumped Rosefinch</b>	<b>E</b>	<i>Carpodacus eos</i>
275.	<b>Three-banded Rosefinch</b>	<b>BE</b>	<i>Carpodacus trifasciatus</i>
276.	<b>Chinese White-browed Rosefinch</b>		<i>Carpodacus dubius</i>
277.	Red-fronted Rosefinch		<i>Carpodacus puniceus</i>
278.	Streaked Rosefinch		<i>Carpodacus rubicilloides</i>
279.	Red Crossbill		<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>
280.	Oriental (Grey-capped) Greenfinch		<i>Carduelis sinica</i>
281.	Twite		<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>
282.	Tibetan Siskin		<i>Carduelis thibetana</i>
283.	Grey-headed Bullfinch		<i>Pyrrhula erythaca</i>
284.	Yellow-billed (Chinese) Grosbeak		<i>Eophona migratoria sowerbyi</i>
285.	Collared Grosbeak		<i>Mycerobas affinis</i>

286.	White-winged Grosbeak	<i>Mycerobas carnipes</i>
287.	Godlewski's Bunting	<i>Emberiza godlewskii</i>



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