



SICHUAN TOUR REPORT

1st June to 17th June
2015

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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

- Chinese Grouse
- Snow Partridge
- Verreaux's Monal-Partridge
- Tibetan Snowcock
- Tibetan Partridge
- Temminck's Tragopan
- Koklass Pheasant
- Chinese Monal
- White Eared Pheasant
- Blue Eared Pheasant
- Lady Amherst's Pheasant
- Black-necked Crane
- Pere David's Owl
- Sichuan Jay
- White-browed Tit
- Ground Tit
- Tibetan Lark
- Black-browed Bushtit
- White-browed Tit-Warbler
- Crested Tit-Warbler
- Sichuan Bush-Warbler
- Golden-fronted Fulvetta
- Chinese Babax
- Snowy-cheeked Laughingthrush
- Barred Laughingthrush
- Giant Laughingthrush
- Red-winged Laughingthrush
- Emei Shan Liocichla
- Golden-breasted Fulvetta
- Rufous-tailed Babbler
- Great Parrotbill
- Three-toed Parrotbill
- Grey-hooded Parrotbill
- Przewalski's Nuthatch
- Wallcreeper
- Long-tailed Thrush
- White-tailed Rubythroat
- Firethroat
- Rufous-necked Snowfinch
- Collared Grosbeak
- Streaked Rosefinch
- Long-tailed Rosefinch
- Three-banded Rosefinch
- Red-fronted Rosefinch
- Crimson-browed Finch
- Slaty Bunting

SUMMARY:

Sichuan is home to some truly exciting species and what has been described as the best scenery of any birding tour! Amongst the 306 species seen there were an incredible 14 species of *galliformes*, 28 warblers, 8 parrotbills and 8 rosefinches. As usual, the stunning Firethroat stole the show with repeated views of several different individuals. Or was the male Temminck's Tragopan bird of the trip? Then again, a delightful Crested Tit-Warbler dancing in the pines of Mengbishan takes some beating. Other highlights include a Chinese Monal strutting across an alpine meadow, a Tibetan Snowcock calling from its craggy perch, a delightful Ground Tit posing on the Tibetan Plateau, Chinese Grouse in the scope for ten minutes, Snowy-cheeked Laughingthrush too close to focus our binoculars on, a pair of the rare Golden-fronted Fulvettas feeding young, and a Przewalski's Nuthatch seemingly close enough to touch. Such wonderful memories and all set amidst snow-capped peaks, lush forest-cloaked mountains and the wide-open plains of the Tibetan Plateau. This tour just seems to get better each year!

Days 1 - 2 1st to 2nd June

Following a 10 hour overnight direct flight with British Airways we eventually landed at Chengdu around 11am and then headed to a nearby restaurant for our first Sichuan meal. Then, in a break from our traditional visit to one of the city parks and an overnight stop in Chengdu, we drive south-west for some two hours to Ya'an and visit a narrow strip of woodland bordered by a river and a quaint, rustic village. We are targeting some species that are unlikely during the rest of the tour and it is rather pleasing to see a pair of **Ashy-throated Parrotbills** very close to our coach, as well as a **Japanese Tit**. There is a rickety old bridge across a river here but it leads to a spot I visit every year and in no time at all we are enjoying point-blank views of a **Brown-flanked Bush-Warbler** posturing at us from some nearby bamboo. There is also a pair of **Yellow-rumped Flycatchers**, with the male being particularly sexy, whilst a pair of **Rufous-capped Babblers**, **Asian Paradise-Flycatcher**, **Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher**, **Rufous-faced Warbler** and a flock of **Black-throated Bushtits** all put in an appearance. I am particularly keen to find **Swinhoe's Minivet** and after a couple of flybys Chris is the first to spot a perched bird at head height in the nearby trees. A brief **Chinese Sparrowhawk**, equally brief **Black-naped Oriole**, several **White-browed Laughingthrushes** and a soaring **Oriental Honey Buzzard** complete the picture here before it's time to head back to the coach and drive to Longcanggou – our base for the next 4 nights.



Our lodge at Longcanggou

Once we leave the freeway the road winds down into a valley before going up the other side where the habitat becomes better. We stop at a bend overlooking a river where **Brown Dipper**, **Blue Whistling-Thrush** and **Slaty-backed Forktail** are seen. A **Sulphur-breasted Warbler** gives great views at eye-level, as does the endemic **Yellow-bellied Tit**, but best of all is a cracking **Chinese Blue Flycatcher** perched in the bamboo below us. The views are a little obstructed but the bird remains on its perch for several minutes allowing everyone plenty of time to manoeuvre and get better and better views. The only other time I've scored this bird on a Sichuan trip was when we came across Per Alstrom holding one he had just mist-netted!

So from here it is just a short drive to a nice lodge and with bags thrown into our rooms we still have time to find **Long-tailed** and **Grey-backed Shrikes**, **Brown-breasted Bulbul** and **Grey-headed Woodpecker**, with our showers interrupted by a **Large Hawk-Cuckoo** perched in the open. Not a bad start and can't wait for tomorrow.

Day 3 Wednesday 3rd June

Waking blurry eyed after a poor night's sleep and it's onto the coach for 5.30am and we drive up into the hills full of excitement of course. The dirt road is very uneven, with large rocks and potholes carefully hidden by a greasy layer of mud. In fact the road is terrible and the coach 'grounds' several times before we make it to our destination. With the development of this site increasing and large trucks driving along the track now I fear for this place and it is practically being raped by the pace of construction work with roadside habitat being destroyed. Yet we begin birding in good heart and get a brief look at a singing **Yellowish-bellied Bush-Warbler**, followed quickly by a flyover **Speckled Woodpigeon**, before a pair of **Himalayan Cuckoos** perch high above us to get the

ball rolling. By taking a side track we avoid any traffic and pick up a string of key birds as we walk through excellent undisturbed habitat with plenty of bamboo and mature, moss-encrusted trees proving ideal for our first major sighting of the day as a pair of soon-to-be-split **Spotted Laughingthrushes** sing at us. What a bird this is and our admiring audience is suitably impressed. And then a female **Temminck's Tragopan** bursts out of the hillside above us and flies across to a denser patch of forest and then disappears. The track meanders from here along the base of a vast swathe of bamboo which is conducive to our sightings of several **Brown** and **Three-toed Parrotbills** feeding at different spots along our route. I was very pleased to get **Three-toed Parrotbill** as it has



Three-toed Parrotbill

proved tough these past couple of years. As the track peters out we also nail a pair of hulking **Great Parrotbills** as well, and they crash through the bamboo and fly in front of us to gaze angrily at me and my ipod. What cool birds they are, full of character and attitude! At this same spot two **Brown Bush-Warblers** are singing their weird song from different territories and give us nice views, as does **Aberrant Bush-Warbler**, which comes in so very close to take a look at us, and there's also a **Buff-throated Warbler**. There are a few **Elliot's Laughingthrushes** here and some shy **Emei Shan Liocichlas** tease us with poor views, but as we return to the coach a pair fly into a nearby bush and hang around long enough for everyone to have very decent views indeed. Other goodies noted on this walk are **Mrs Gould's Sunbird**, **Red-tailed Minla**, the cute **Grey-**

hooded Fulvetta, stunning **Golden-breasted Fulvettas**, **Besra**, **White-throated Needletail**, **Himalayan Swiftlet**, **Yellow-browed**, **Green-backed** and **Coal Tits**, singing **Chinese Leaf-Warbler**, **Red-billed Leiothrix**, numerous **White-collared Yuhinas**, **White-bellied Redstart**, **Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher**, **Olive-backed Pipit** and some fine male **Vinaceous Rosefinches**.

So by now it is lunchtime and we have a picnic lunch, seeing **Slaty-blue Flycatcher** and **Fire-capped Tit** at the top of the slope above us and then decide to walk along the main track in search of **Golden Parrotbill**. Well it doesn't take long and I call in a small group of these delightful birds for crippling views as they zip around the bamboo in front of us. A flurry of activity also brings us **Claudia's Leaf-Warbler**, **Large-billed Leaf-Warbler**, and several other common birds, with a calling **Lesser Cuckoo** perched up in the distance as well. Driving higher up the road it gets really muddy and we try walking for a bit but to be frank it isn't fun so decide to drive on a bit more (if we can). Eventually we reach the Shangri-La of higher altitude bamboo forest and decide to try our luck at finding **Grey-hooded Parrotbill**, which takes us all of two minutes trying before a pair fly down a big slope and start to feed right over the road. What a result and we follow them for several minutes before they retreat back into the safety of their impenetrable haven. So that is five species of parrotbill today – unbelievable. There is also our second **Darjeeling Woodpecker** for the day giving much better views than the earlier sighting, and a pair of **Grey-crested Tits** as well.



Emei Leaf-Warbler

A bumpy drive to lower elevations is curtailed when we get stuck in the mud but all is not lost as the recently split **Sichuan Bush-Warbler** starts to call behind us. Out we jump and are treated to what can only be described as crippling views as first it skulks along the floor before flying up onto a bare branch at eye level. Wow! The small patch of forest then reverberates to the song of **Emei Leaf-Warbler** and after a bit of manoeuvring we have the

bird right above our heads singing away. It is quite mobile and circles us several times before a different 'phyllosc' puts in an appearance and this one is **Kloss's Leaf-Warbler**. Also here are singing **Grey-crowned** and **Martens's Warblers**, but we only manage to glimpse the latter species. So we drive back to the lodge for a well earned early finish, but there's still time to find **Russet Sparrow** and **Red-billed Starling** in the surrounding area despite the constant drizzle.

Day 4 Thursday 4th June

Driving back into Loncanggou in a steady drizzle I was hoping that once the sun rose the weather would get better – but it doesn't. Parking at our spot the rain is still falling, so a nice cup of coffee seems a good idea, but it still keeps raining. So we are waiting in the bus for an improvement in the weather and having to talk over an incessantly singing **Sichuan Bush-Warbler** that is only 2 metres away – what a loud song. Well, the rain turns to drizzle and conditions are ok for a walk along a side trail but birding is rather slow, although a **Brown Bullfinch** is a big surprise, as is an **Eurasian Woodcock** and a male **Ultramarine Flycatcher** – all new records for this tour. Apart from a few commoner species there isn't much else and the drizzle seems to be getting heavier but as we approach the bus a **Buffy Laughingthrush** calls and eventually at least 5 birds sneak past us at reasonably close range, although not everyone gets on to them in time. And so the rain gets heavier and heavier, which prompts us to drive lower and check out a new trail. Here, we just have a thick mist to contend with and begin with a nice **Brown Dipper** and **Plumbeous Water Redstart**. Heading along the trail a **White-tailed Robin** calls but never really shows itself apart from a few brief flybys. Several large congregations of birds come into the owl call and include **Chestnut-crowned Warbler**, **Blue-winged Minla** and **David's Fulvetta** for a few of the group. After maybe an hour here the rain begins again so we decide to return to the lodge for lunch and a chance to dry out.



Slaty Bunting (female)

As we eat lunch the rain gets heavier and I fear the worst but amazingly all of a sudden the weather breaks and prompts a quick check of the adjacent fields. I call in our first and much-wanted **Yellow-throated Bunting** and boy does it perform, singing back at us from the nearby conifers and power lines. Some **Russet Sparrows** are a catch up bird for some and a quick change of plan brings the bus to us and we hop on board, but not before Jay spots a **Forest Wagtail** in a tall tree behind us. The drive up into Longcanggou goes quickly and we see a pair of **Black Baza** on telegraph wires, before reaching our favourite trail and how different it is here with plenty of birds singing now the weather has improved and there's even some blue sky overhead. Our target endemic this afternoon is **Slaty Bunting** and after walking a short distance we watch a fine male fly in to check us out for a few seconds before flying off, but Tracey spots it perched up in a tree and we are treated to amazing scope views. Following this we walk further and see plenty of commoner species including a pair of **Ultramarine Flycatchers**, with a few

Japanese White-eyes being new for the trip. The trail meanders through excellent forest and we find another female **Slaty Bunting** below us, plus a fine male **Snowy-browed Flycatcher** as well. Further along we see a male **Crimson-breasted Woodpecker** found by Paul and a short while later we get stellar views of a **Pygmy Wren-Babbler** along a small stream. This one scolds us from the open bank, on top of moss-covered logs and remains in view for several minutes. Superb! There are also lots of **Yellow-bellied**, **Yellow-browed** and **Green-backed Tits** and some **Short-billed Minivets** along the trail, and oh how can you beat an **Emei Leaf Warbler** calling from the ground at my ipod – what views! So following a nice longish walk it is a relief to get back to the bus and sit down. A quick stop along the road on the way back produces a flock of 10 **Brown Bullfinches**, **Grey Bushchat**, **Grey-backed Shrike** and **Buff-throated Warbler**. So I think we managed to save the day despite the inclement weather – fingers crossed for tomorrow's Tragopan quest.

Day 5 Friday 5th June

The alarm wakes me at 4.45am and I can hear the rain outside – oh no..!! That’s all we need as I’ve booked a couple of local vehicles to take us up to the highest point of Longcanggou that it is possible to drive to now. Well, it is a bumpy, muddy drive and one of our vehicles gets stuck for a while in a particularly treacherous spot. It doesn’t take too long to dig it out and we are on our way. Nearing the end of our drive we screech to a halt as a female **Temminck’s Tragopan** is walking along the track in front of us. All of a sudden the male flies down from the bank above and walks across in front of us, before walking back again and out of sight. He’s not on view for more than a minute but the stunning plumage is etched into our minds forever and what a relief I feel as this is such a huge target sighting. With that done we park up and have breakfast and then begin the truly awful walk up to the pass some 5 kilometres away. It’s an awful walk as we tramp through several inches (often more) of gloopy soft mud all of the way. It’s not fun but we are keen to explore the higher areas and on the way up see **Grey-capped Pygmy** and **Darjeeling Woodpeckers**, **Buff-barred** and **Sichuan Leaf-Warblers**, **Hodgson’s Treecreeper**, **Asian Brown Flycatcher**, a pair of **Great Parrotbills**, a stunning **Golden Bush-Robin**, get a couple views of **White-bellied Redstart**, several **Elliot’s Laughingthrushes**, and we also hear a **Chestnut-headed Tesia**. Meanwhile, **Lesser Cuckoo** and **Large Hawk-Cuckoo** provide a constant accompaniment to our trek.

Once at the pass I’m very saddened to see the lovely little marsh totally destroyed and digging machinery (and more mud) present. Yet a **Spotted Bush-Warbler** shows very well, as does a **Buff-throated Warbler**, and there’s a brief view of a **Red-winged Laughingthrush** as it flies across in front of us. We continue walking for a kilometre down the other side but find nothing new although the habitat is superb still. The walk back down to our waiting vehicles is enlivened by **Brown Parrotbill**, **Black-faced Laughingthrush**, **Bianchi’s Warbler**, the distinctive local race of **Eurasian Wren**, but a **White-browed Shortwing** remains just a voice in the dense vegetation.



Spotted Bush-Warbler

It is a huge relief to reach the vehicles at 3pm and really enjoy our egg fried rice lunch before driving lower. We decide to try and get better views of **Red-winged Laughingthrush** but only succeed in hearing at least three different individuals, although a **Mountain Hawk-Eagle** flies over. So we drive back to the hotel – well until one of our cars gets stuck well and truly in a quagmire of a track. Leaving it here we walk down and get brief views of singing **Martens’s** and **Grey-crowned Warblers** before the vehicle is finally free and we reach the hotel at 6.15pm for a well deserved hot shower and to clean our walking boots that have several layers of mud encrusted around them!

Day 6 Saturday 6th June

So can you believe it was 6.30am when we met up at the coach for a short hop up into the hills? Honest! Walking along a nice trail into great forest there wasn’t much bird activity until our first **Black-chinned Yuhinas** appear, followed by a few previously seen species such as **Emei Leaf Warbler**, **Red-billed Leiothrix**, **Yellow-bellied Tit**, and even more **Brown Bullfinches**. It was looking like a very quiet morning until Derek said he might have **THE Fulvetta** and I put my bins on one of the Chinese Holy Grail birds – **Golden-fronted Fulvetta**. Literally all hell breaks loose as at first the bird disappears into the dense foliage, only to reappear moments later in a different part of the tree. In fact there are two adults carrying food to a nest that remains hidden to us. The adults keep bringing bugs to the same spot and with these stunning birds constantly in view for half an hour at least and no more than 10 metres above our heads you can say the views are not too bad at all! From a personal point of view I am too excited to get a decent photo as the

birds are in a particularly shady area of foliage and have to calm myself down and get over that old shaky hand syndrome. Eventually when I've given up hope and most of the group have retreated one of the birds comes down to just a metre above the ground and into a sparsely leaved bush right beside me and I am fortunate to get these photos.....

Anything else after that was always going to be a poor second but a calling **Bay Woodpecker** shows reasonably well, and amongst numerous **Chestnut-crowned Warblers** a pair of **David's Fulvettas** are a good



The incredibly rare Golden-fronted Fulvetta

find for the list. I must say our field breakfast tastes particularly nice after all of this excitement. A **Brown-breasted Flycatcher** a little later is also nice, and **Mountain Hawk-Eagle** and **Crested Goshawk** are good birds too.

Returning to the lodge late morning a **Grey-headed Woodpecker** is seen flying over and then we say our farewells to this great little lodge and begin driving towards our next port of call – Erlang Shan. The scenery as we drive along through enormously deep sided river valleys is truly stunning and the time passes quickly, and from the window of the bus another pair of **Black Bazas** are seen perched on telegraph wires. Close to our good hotel we enjoy a nice little stop below some huge slopes where we see a pair of **Godlewski's Buntings**, **Blue Rock Thrush**, **Eastern Stonechat** and **Ashy-throated Parrotbill**.

Day 7 Sunday 7th June

Leaving the hotel at 5.15 am and there's not much traffic as we wind our way for 45 minutes along the mountain road, reaching Erlang Shan just after daybreak. This is one of my favourite birding sites in Sichuan as there are some quality birds present on this mountain, maybe not a huge number but what is here is worth the effort to find. Our first target is **Lady Amherst's Pheasant** and with the news from some other visiting birders we met last night that they couldn't find any pheasants, I was a little worried. After some slow careful driving by our excellent driver we round a bend and BANG! there's an immature male walking along the roadside some 70 metres away. Unfortunately he skulks in some bushes at the roadside, disappears for a while before we decide to drive closer. But he's gone. So we continue upwards for several kilometres and there's a distinct lack of pheasants up here, so turn the bus around and drive slowly downhill. Some calling **Spotted Nutcrackers** are just too close to drive away from and we jump out and scope a couple of birds perched right on top of the pine trees, and there's also our first **Yellow-streaked Warbler** showing well at the same spot. But no time to dally and we're back in the bus and after several bends in the road we come across the same young male with a harem of 3 females walking along in front of us and now the entire group get tickable views. What a relief!

Having heard a **Firethroat** call whilst we are doing our 'chicken run', it's time to focus on more pressing matters and this is certainly one of the top birds of the trip. So we hop out of the bus and within maybe less than a minute all of our binoculars are trained on this stunning vision of dark blue, white and bright crimson



Black-browed Bushtit

singing back at us from the roadside bushes. What a cracker! Once this stunner has retreated to the denser bushes we drive lower and search for more goodies, with **Chinese Babax** and **Black-streaked Scimitar-Babbler** giving various degrees of views to different people but neither species gives prolonged views, although our first **Chestnut Thrush** is more obliging. A pair of superb **Barred Laughingthrushes** tantalise us initially with just glimpses of their intricate plumage as they sing from the dense carpet of bushes, until finally coming quite close and decide to remain in a more sparsely leaved bush for us all to see. Wow! There's also a singing **Yellow-throated Bunting** looking sexy on some wires, **Daurian Redstarts** are singing away nearby, **Brown-breasted Bulbuls**, and a

very close and cooperative **Streak-breasted Scimitar-Babbler**. But unfortunately it is only Derek and I that see a pair of **Long-tailed Rosefinches** feeding in some bushes above the road and when we draw the group's attention to this the birds have already flown way up the hillside never to be seen again. So we retrace our steps back up the hill a little and tackle the often tricky-to-see **Indian Blue Robin** that's been singing the entire morning whilst we have been doing other things. Well this bird is typically elusive and moves around us constantly, only offering brief perched views but good enough anyway. A pair of **Black-browed Bushtits** show well here and are a welcome addition to our growing list and a skulking **White-browed Fulvetta** is seen by some of us.

A decent field breakfast is much appreciated and then we're off back up the winding road in search of more goodies. Another stunning show from a **Firethroat** is even better than before and now the sun is shining and the light is much better. The next session is interspersed with some driving and then walking various sections and different altitudes and we see species such as **Grey-crested Tit**, yet another **Firethroat**, a flyover **Tibetan Serin**, more **Daurian Redstarts** and **Chestnut-flanked White-eyes** before our picnic lunch. During this time there's more **White-browed Fulvettas** (at least 3 different sightings today), a large party of **Black-browed Bushtits**, a family of **White-winged Grosbeaks** and other previously seen species.



Firethroat

After lunch we walk a short distance higher enjoying some nice flocks with all of the usual suspects but get very close views of **Sichuan Leaf** and **Buff-barred Warblers**, another **Yellow-throated Bunting** and get cracking looks at a group of **Grey-headed Bullfinches**. Moving lower there's a **Greenish Warbler** to test our i.d skills, and yet more singing **Firethroats**. We continue with **Grey-headed Woodpecker** and some brief **Chinese Babax** but with rain threatening there's not much activity. Just then I hear the call I've been hoping for – **Rufous-tailed Babbler**. This is

another 'mega' Sichuan bird and one I was particularly keen to get this year having only seen it once before. A quick drive around the bend gets us to the spot and I fire up the ipod but nothing and after trying intermittently over the next hour we still draw a blank. We decide to wait and give it some time and our patience is rewarded when eventually the distinctive call of a **Rufous-tailed Babbler** is heard from the slope above. Raymond is the first to spot it skulking in a roadside bush right in front of us but it quickly disappears. The next half an hour is very frustrating as we get only brief glimpses until some time later and another longish wait when we think it is all over and the babbler flies across a clearing in front of us. After a few circuits it sits on top of a bush singing away and there are smiles all round. What a battle but we eventually nailed it! And what good timing as the very light rain we had encountered for the past hour gives way to something much heavier as we drive back to our hotel. What a good day!

Day 8 Monday 8th June

It was just getting light when we left on the long drive to Rilong, and this was a different route to the one I normally take. These mountain roads are always a bit interesting and this morning we discover during our field breakfast that our road is blocked by a landslide and wouldn't be open until midday. No problem, this is China and we are led by a construction crew through a tunnel with a closed sign and that is clearly still unfinished! We squeeze past all the debris, scaffolding and other stuff and follow a bumpy, broken dirt track for many, many miles alongside a huge river. The upshot is we make good time and by the time we reach our lunch stop at a small town at around 1pm we only have another hour to go to the hotel.



The scenery around Rilong is spectacular

There aren't any birding stops and we content ourselves with a few species such as **Chinese Pond-heron**, **Blue Rock Thrush**, **Eurasian Crag-Martin**, **Oriental Turtle Dove** and others all seen from the moving bus. The scenery is truly spectacular and we marvel at the huge river valleys and lofty peaks towering all around us.

Arriving at 3pm we quickly drop our bags into the rooms and drive uphill for a few kilometres to a particular spot I always like to check out. As we arrive the rain that had been constant all day suddenly stops and the cloud began to rise, revealing impressive snow-clad peaks. There isn't much birdsong or activity to begin with and a little trail into the pine forest only reveals a fine male **Himalayan Bluetail**, but both **Buff-barred** and **Hume's Warblers** begin singing here. Our patience, however, is rewarded with **Black-browed** and more importantly, our first **Sichuan Tit** and **Giant Laughingthrush**, and then Derek spots the calling **Crested Tit-Warbler** – but this bird is fast moving and flies from tree to tree before disappearing. So we walk up to the road and discover many **Pink-rumped Rosefinches** feeding in the bushes, along with one or two **Beautiful Rosefinches** and spend quite some time watching them. All of a sudden a **Wallcreeper** flies past and lands on the small cliff beside the road and gives terrific views as it feeds on spiders and other insects. It's always a good day when you see this bird right? The action is unrelenting, as then a large rosefinch is 'spotted'



Streaked Rosefinch

perched and calling from the top of a dead tree. I can't believe my eyes, as it is a male **Streaked Rosefinch** – one of the most beautiful birds on the tour. Wow! He is joined by a female but they both fly away, only for us to find them again a short while later and get much better views. But before that we are scanning some large cliffs where **Hill Pigeons** are flying around and a **Chinese Goral** is scoped, **Asian House Martins** buzz us at close range, and a **Snow Pigeon** is scoped on the cliffs. In between all of this we admire a cracking male **White-throated Redstart**, **Common Rosefinch**, **Rufous-vented Tit** and check out all the rosefinches again. By now it is 6pm (where has the time gone) and attempt to get back to the bus, but a **Chinese Fulvetta** appears, a **Tibetan Serin** flies past and then a pair of *henrici* **Long-tailed Rosefinches** are found. We are loving our first taste of birding on the mighty Balangshan.

Day 9 Tuesday 9th June

Up and out at 3.30am (what..??!!) driving up and over Balangshan and arriving at the **Wood Snipe** spot by 5.00am – a little early I thought. However the snipes are calling for a few minutes but then go silent and that is it. Great! But the clear, starlit sky bodes well for the day and sure enough we are treated to the best weather I've ever experienced here. Scanning the slope above and we find at least 4 **White Eared-Pheasants** feeding out in the open – our first 'chicken' of the day and a good one, plus we see our first **Kessler's Thrush**. It's just a short drive down to the tunnel and once on the other side we start scanning for **Chinese Monals** and I'm pleased to report we quickly find a male on the slope above us, followed a little later by 2 males and a female feeding on the grassy slope just below the skyline and the views in the scope were superb. What a bird – I feel like I keep saying that frequently on this tour. Anyway, there are calling **Koklass Pheasants** and **Verreaux's Monal-Partridge** that just won't show, although there are plenty of other birds around us and another close **Wallcreeper** is much appreciated. A male **Dark-breasted Rosefinch** flies in and lands close by as well, and more **Rosy Pipits** are



Wallcreeper

seen plus **Blue-fronted Redstarts**. With a long horizon dominated by craggy, snow-covered peaks this must rank as one of the most scenic breakfast spots of any tour. A short walk along the road and a male **Crimson-browed Finch** is seen by all, to add to the brief views of a female earlier – a new trip bird for me in Sichuan.

With clear blue skies it seems like a good decision to drive to higher areas and try for **Tibetan Snowcock** and **Snow Partridge** and a short drive later sees us scanning huge open valleys and scree slopes. A cracking **Tibetan Snowcock** calls back at us from far above and looks very nice in the scope indeed. But we just cannot find any partridges, and have to content ourselves with **Grandala**, **Brandt's Mountain-Finches**, and flyover **Lammergeier**, **Golden Eagles** and **Himalayan Griffons**. There are also some groups of **Alpine** and **Red-billed Choughs** around as well. A few of us walk up a steep slope to try to get an angle on a calling **Snow Partridge** without success, but more incredible views and a few **Rufous-breasted Accentors** are some compensation.



Red-fronted Rosefinch

Heading back down to Beimuping it is hot and sunny and almost birdless, although our first **Chinese White-browed Rosefinch** is appreciated. So it's good to get under the shade of some trees and a nice quiet little area sees Ron catch a glimpse of a **Golden Pheasant**, there's a shy **Blood Pheasant** scuttling across the trail and a **Plain-backed Thrush** is feeding a large fledgling. So following lunch we head back up to the dizzy heights of 4000m and over in another vain search for **Snow Partridge**, but Ray is particularly delighted with an **Alpine Accentor** feeding by the bus. To celebrate he finds us a **Hog-nosed Badger** feeding on a slope above the road. But this

time we find a couple of confiding male **Red-fronted Rosefinches** and they are totally oblivious to our presence. The same area has closer **Grandala**, **Plain Mountain-Finches** and flyover **Pacific Swifts**. We check out the area over the pass but find nothing new so drop even lower and scope a singing **Himalayan Rubythroat** to end the day in fine style. Unfortunately it was at this point that my new camera strap came unscrewed, dropping my new camera onto the road and breaks the focussing mechanism. Great!

Day 10 Wednesday 10th June

As it's China then we had some random rule imposed that our driver could not start driving until 5am (instead of the 4am I wanted) so we arrive at the monal site at 6.30am and so miss the first crucial 'pheasant-hour' of the day. So we stake out the tunnel area but there aren't any **Koklass Pheasants** calling, although a pair of flyover **Chinese Monals** are quite spectacular as they took off right across the valley and over the trees and into the distant grassland. I remember this walk for the crippling close pair of **Wallcreepers**, literally 5 metres away, in perfect light and just above head height.... Mmmm. This small section of the old road that skirts the tunnel always turns up interesting sightings and our walk was no different, with many **Common** and **Dark-breasted Rosefinches** calling all around, **Asian House Martins** nesting in the walls right next to us, a perched **Northern Goshawk** in the scope, and our first **Alpine Leaf-Warbler** coming in close to check us out.

We leave here and drive down the road and walk into the 'forest' where a **Maroon-backed Accentor** is something of a surprise, but we don't see much else and only I get to see a male **Golden Pheasant** scuttling

along the forest floor. With rumbling stomachs we walk back to the bus, but just then a **Chestnut-crowned Bush-Warbler** starts to sing and after a short wait we all eyeball this under-rated little beauty singing from the nearby bushes. We follow this with much better views than we have had before of **Yellowish-bellied Bush-Warbler** and can now finally tuck into our breakfast that includes cold fries and Yak meat..... So with the sun beating down we make a bold decision to return to the trail and get better views of **Blood Pheasant** as a pair walk sedately along the forest floor above us. There's also a young **Plain-backed Thrush** perched nearby, some **Vinaceous Rosefinches**, **Himalayan Bluetail**, but it's not until we decide to walk back that we find a pair of **Stripe-throated Yuhinas** and a few other common species.



Not a bad setting to look for snowcocks.

From here we check out some roadside stops, with only a pair of **House Sparrows** and a **Maroon-backed Accentor** to show for our efforts and then head back to the tunnel. The second lot of calling **Verreaux's Monal-Partridges** defy our decent attempts to spot them so we head up to the higher areas which by now are misty and we experience some rain. But at the obelisk area it is just low cloud and dry and we find a calling **Snow Partridge** relatively easily thanks to Derek's sharp eyes again. It is way above us, perched on the skyline but the views in the scope are great, in between belts of mist rising from the valley below obscuring the bird. A **Lammergeier** also comes into view just over our heads but disappears into the gloom.

Driving back to Rilong it rains quite a bit until we reach the lower section of valley where we walk along the road. More **Pink-rumped Rosefinches**, flyover **Golden Eagles**, **Black Woodpecker**, **Black-browed Tit**, **Streaked Rosefinch**, **Chinese Leaf-Warbler**, **Eurasian Jay** and an **Olive-backed Pipit** singing from the top of a conifer are among the highlights.

Day 11 Thursday 11th June

Leaving at 6.15am felt like decadence this morning but we only went a few kilometres uphill and spent a pleasant couple of hours birding along the road. There are some notable sightings such as **Golden Eagle**, **Snow Pigeon**, a **Speckled Woodpigeon** perched up for a change, **White-bellied Redstart**, **Sichuan Tit** and **Giant Laughingthrush**. Just as we are leaving the distinctive call of a **Przewalski's Nuthatch** is heard and



White-throated Redstart

there it is at the top of a fir tree, but only a few people get tickable views before it disappears despite much effort to relocate it. So we return to the hotel for breakfast and then set off towards Mengbishan, stopping along the way for lunch in a small restaurant.

We arrive at the Mengbi Pass at around 3pm, having just seen a **Himalayan Griffon** feeding on a carcass right beside the winding road. The view from here is superb with forested hills and snow-capped mountains dominating the horizon and after some obligatory photos of the view and prayer flags we drive down the road. A

short stop results in Chris finding a **Streaked Rosefinch**, and there's also a few

Common Rosefinches but not a lot else. So we head into the forest that here is dominated by conifers and begin our Sichuan Jay hunt. There are **Goldcrests**, both **Hume's** and **Sichuan Leaf Warblers**, **Rufous-vented** and **Grey-crested Tits**, **Hodgson's Treecreeper** and **Himalayan Buzzard**, whilst a group of **Blood Pheasants** are called in and watched crossing the road before calling back at us from the moss-covered forest floor above us. Nice! A **Tufted Deer** is also spotted on a far slope, and a little later a **White Eared Pheasant** is scoped on a distant slope. And that is all we have time for before driving to an excellent hotel in the nearby town of Maerkang.

Day 12 Friday 12th June

Driving up into the wonderful old pine forest of Mengbishan at 5am I am wondering what the day will bring – well I shouldn't have worried. At my usual spot for **Koklass Pheasant** I cannot remember getting better views of this sometimes tricky-to-see-well species and in fact this was probably my best views ever. First of all we watch a male bird fly out from the forest across the road and into the treeline above us. From here he calls repeatedly for some time before flying back out and onto the slope below us. Waiting patiently, we watch the road ahead feeling confident that the bird will have to cross it to get back to his original song-post. Sure enough there he is, walking sedately across in front of us, hopping up onto the bank and giving prolonged views right out in the open. Wow! What a way to start the day. And it gets even better when a **Long-tailed Thrush** flies right past us at close range revealing that typical 'zoothera' underwing. From here we drive up above the treeline and check out the rosefinches, with **Common**, **Chinese Beautiful** and **Pink-rumped** all present and feeding on the ground. After a little walk, during which we are surrounded by inquisitive Yaks, we see several **Blood Pheasants** feeding out in the open, when all of a sudden Jay spots the bird we want – **Verreaux's Monal-Partridge**. In fact there are a pair just feeding between some bushes and there's plenty of time to scope them. Following this we are all elated and are treated to further crippling views of both pheasant and partridge, with a calling monal-partridge teed up in the scope looking fantastic. This bird really throws his head right back and calls vehemently and to watch this through the scope as he calls from directly upslope of us was a real treat. There's also some nice views of **Alpine Leaf-Warbler** and **Chinese Fulvetta** here as well. As if this wasn't enough we came across a pair of **White-browed (Severtzov's) Tit-Warblers** bringing food into a small bush that must have had a nest in it. Initially it was the

female feeding on the ground in front of us before the incredibly beautiful male appears – surely that combination of suffused pink and blue cant be right....?

So after pigging out on breakfast we head down into the forest and begin our hunt for **Sichuan Jay**. After walking a while, and I can't believe I'm saying this, we have a jay teed up in our scopes perched at the very pinnacle of a pine tree above us. As easy as that, and following horror stories of other groups dipping here we are very happy indeed. High five!! But just then the distinctive call of **Collared Grosbeak** is heard and we scope a superb male and more demure female as well. We are on a roll and cleaning up our hit-list for this site, but still no sign of the expected tit-warbler. So we walk some more, seeing **Himalayan Buzzard**, **Hume's**



Crested Tit-Warbler

Warbler, **White-throated Redstart** and enjoy some fantastic looks at a group of **White Eared Pheasants** feeding on the slope above us - but by now it is late morning. A short drive downhill takes us to what I have dubbed 'Magic Corner' and as soon as we step out of the bus a **Yellow-streaked Warbler** is seen, but it's a shame our attention is diverted momentarily from two other shapes deeper inside the conifer as it's a pair of **Three-banded Rosefinch**. They promptly fly such a long way over the forest and out of sight.... Never to be seen again... However, a stunning **Przewalski's Nuthatch** gives point-blank views here from about 5 metres away at head height (no camera... Grrrr) for maybe a minute before flying off. And then just around the corner a pair of the much-wanted **Crested Tit-Warblers** are feeding in the closest conifer beside the road and also give stunning views – the male really is a beauty! Oh and

another **Long-tailed Thrush** puts in an appearance for Ron, there's a few **White-winged Grosbeaks** and a **Dark-sided Flycatcher** is also scoped.

To be honest, that's our day pretty much done right there and it's only 1.15pm. We drive lower for lunch, make a walk and mess around in the Tibetan village with only **Black-eared Kite**, **Red Turtle** and **Oriental Turtle Doves**, **White-throated Dipper** (much to Dexter's delight), another **Chinese Fulvetta** and a pair of **Daurian Redstarts** to show for our efforts. But its nice to finish early and have a little time to relax in such a nice hotel.

Day 13 Saturday 13th June

With rain battering the windscreen as we leave the 'gorge country' and head up towards the Tibetan Plateau I don't feel overly optimistic about what today will bring. With solid, low grey skies it does look like we were in for a foul day and eating our picnic breakfast in the last shelter before the plateau (a newly built and as yet not opened fuel station) we see our first **Azure-winged Magpie** and **Common Pheasant**. Further along the road we drive beside a grassy area where **Oriental Skylarks** and **Daurian Jackdaw** are seen, but by the time we reach the edge of the plateau the skies are clearing a little and we venture out to check a bush-covered hillside. A **Plain Laughingthrush** is noted, along with a **Godlewski's Bunting** before continuing our drive. With clearing skies the scenery changes to a more open vista and high on our agenda is the plateau endemic **White-browed Tit**, although our first few attempts are in vain. Yet there is now some blue sky and birds are singing and driving through more open, grassy habitat a hulking **Tibetan Lark** flies up from the roadside and out we jump to find several pairs are present and they treat us to super views. There is also an adult feeding an almost fully grown juvenile nearby, and we've already seen our first **Tibetan Citrine Wagtails** and **Crested Lark**. Moving on and there's a great sighting of a **Tibetan Grey Shrike** perched on telegraph wires but our viewing is cut short by a peremptory policeman telling us to move on! But what a great bird.

We have lunch at a nice little restaurant in Hongyuan that serves delicious dumplings before continuing our journey. More stops are made before the much-wanted **White-browed Tit** is found, and we also see **Little Owl, Rock Sparrow, Horned Lark (Elwes's Horned Lark** once the promised 'splits' are made), **Upland Buzzard**, lots of **Black-eared Kites, Ruddy Shelduck, Ferruginous Ducks, Northern Raven, Oriental Crow, Pale Martin, Black Redstart**, and plenty of pretty **Twite**. Special mention must be made of the **Black-necked Cranes** and our first pair were feeding in a flower covered open grassy area – superb. We also saw a couple of nests with one adult tending two huge eggs.

The major finale of the day is a pair **Tibetan Partridges** we scope as they feed on a steep slope opposite us – a scarce bird in Sichuan and much appreciated. We finally reach Ruogai at 7.45pm.

Day 14 Sunday 14th June

Leaving at 5.30am we drive across the plateau and drop down into Baxi Forest, staking out our usual spot for **Blue Eared Pheasant**. We wait at an overlook in the cold morning air but there's no sign of the pheasants for quite a while, but luckily Jay spots a very distant bird feeding on a hillside far into the distance. Soon after Derek spots a **Chinese Grouse** that is calling and everyone enjoys the most incredible scope views of a male bird below us for at least 10 minutes before it walks off. Wow! As if that isn't enough a pair of **Snowy-cheeked (Sukatschev's) Laughingthrushes** come in very close to check us out and are also on view for maybe 10 minutes, with one bird in particular coming to about 5 metres away and calling from a bare bush... Wow! Oh and a pair of **Chinese Serow** are scoped on the hillside opposite us to kick-start a particularly good day for mammals.



Rufous-necked Snowfinch

After yet another picnic breakfast we drive lower and walk along the forest edge (I must admit I picked the wrong spot to start walking and was about a kilometre uphill from where I usually begin walking) but this turns out to be a little bit of divine inspiration as a pair of the extremely rare **Sika Deer** are scoped on the hillside above. Then a flock of **Red Crossbills** fly into the treetops including some lovely bright males and as we scope them a **Sichuan Jay** appears on the top of the conifer immediately behind them. Further inside the forest and a **Chinese Song Thrush** puts in an appearance, and we also watch a **Przewalski's**

Nuthatch taking food into its very large nest hole. We also enjoy fine views of both **Chestnut and Kessler's Thrushes, Plain and Elliot's Laughingthrushes, Yellow-streaked Warbler, Slaty-backed Flycatcher, Sichuan Tit**, and others before driving back up towards the plateau. On the way we get real lucky with a cracking **Blue Eared Pheasant** spotted feeding in an open area below the road. Higher up there's yet another **White-browed Tit**, as well as **Hodgson's Redstart** and a **Eurasian Hoopoe**.

Following lunch at a restaurant in Ruogai we drive towards Flower Lake, and Ron spots a snowfinch which prompts a hasty exit and we find many **White-rumped Snowfinches**. After watching them running around the **Plateau Pika** colony, our first **Rufous-necked Snowfinch** is found nearby. Despite a light drizzle we thoroughly enjoy watching them, and then things get even better as we scope a distant **Saker** feeding on some recently caught prey.



Flower Lake

Once at Flower Lake we catch the shuttle bus down to the lake and follow the boardwalk which takes us to a series of viewing platforms. I am very pleasantly surprised to see many superb **White-winged Terns** and a few **Whiskered Terns** flying over the marshes. Other goodies are at least 3 **Great Bitterns** seen flying over the tall grasses at the water's edge and even walking out in the open, a lone **Eurasian Spoonbill**, **Eastern Marsh Harrier**, **Red-crested Pochard** and many **Ferruginous Ducks**. For me, the star bird is **Salim Ali's Swift**, with maybe 100+ flying low over our heads, across the water and literally flying all around us giving us crippling looks at their scaly undersides. Other birds present include **Greylag Goose**, **Ruddy Shelduck**,

Mallard, **Northern Shoveller**, **Northern Pintail**, **Eastern Cattle Egret**, **Great Egret**, **Himalayan Griffon Vultures**, **Lesser Sandplover**, **Tibetana Common Tern**, **Horned Larks**, **Tibetan Larks**, **Tibetan Citrine Wagtail**,

The drive back to the hotel is enlivened by 2 **Tibetan Foxes** and our second **Eurasian Hobby** of the tour perched on telegraph wires.

Day 15 Monday 15th June

So a nice relaxing 6am departure for Baxi Forest and it's a lovely clear morning so we can actually see the sun as we drive along. We walk into the moss-encrusted pine forest hoping for really only two birds that we still need (Three-banded Rosefinch and Chinese Nuthatch) but neither are present, although on another day the birds we see would constitute a good walk: **Chinese Leaf-Warbler**, **Przewalski's Nuthatch**, **Sichuan Tit**, **Red Crossbill**, **Chinese White-browed Rosefinch** and others. We also have a **Long-tailed Thrush** teed up in the scopes as it sang right from the top of a tall conifer – very nice indeed.



White-browed Tit-Warbler

Breakfast was a jovial affair and then we walk up a beautiful valley with scrub and bushes on both sides where a Sharpe's Rosefinch had been recently seen. There are a couple of fine male **White-browed Tit-Warblers**, **Chinese Fulvetta**, **Plain Laughingthrush**, many **Yellow-streaked Warblers**, **Greenish Warbler**, **Kessler's Thrush**, **Rufous-breasted Accentor**, plenty of **Common Rosefinches**, and best of all a very unexpected **Spectacled Parrotbill** that comes in very close. Wow! And further up the valley a flock of 14 **Tibetan Serins** are feeding in a bush at eye level – again another species giving crippling views and we watch them for ages until they fly off.

Higher up the valley we find many **Chinese Beautiful Rosefinches** and there's the nesting pair of **White-browed Tits** here as well. But all too soon it's time to leave the Tibetan Plateau and we head towards our next hotel, getting close **Daurian Jackdaws** by the roadside before stopping at my usual site to scope a

superb male **Siberian Rubythroat** singing from on top of a bush for several minutes. We arrive at the hotel at 4.45pm and have plenty of time to relax this evening.

Day 16 Tuesday 16th June

Leaving at 5am from our hotel we drive a short distance to a lovely patch of forest from where the unbelievable happens and a huge **Pere David's Owl** flies right over us and lands on the top of a nearby conifer. We watch this beauty for some 20 minutes as it flies all around us and at one point it comes really low over our heads, circling us before alighting nearby – stunning views indeed. Needless to say we are all elated at this sighting and what a way to wrap up the tour. The rest of the forest is pretty quiet and we can only find some commoner species, so return to our hotel for a quick shower and pack before setting off on the long drive to Chengdu.

Day 17 Wednesday 17th June

A quick check of the nearby park results in **Chinese Blackbird, Chinese Grosbeak, Vinous-throated Parrotbill** and some other commoner species before we return to the hotel for a shower and then drive to the airport and the end of yet another awesome Sichuan adventure.

Nick Bray



Pere David's Owl

SYSTEMATIC LIST – SICHUAN JUNE 2015

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>
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</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>
Tibetan Partridge	<i>Perdix hodgsoniae</i>
Chinese Bamboo Partridge (H)	<i>Bambusicola thoracicus</i>
Blood Pheasant	<i>Ithaginis cruentus</i>
Temminck's Tragopan	<i>Tragopan temminckii</i>
Koklass Pheasant	<i>Pucrasia macrolopha</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</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>

PELECANIFORMES: Threskiornithidae

Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
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PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae

Eurasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Chinese Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola bacchus</i>
Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>

ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae

Lammergeier
Crested Honey Buzzard
Black Baza
Himalayan Vulture
Mountain Hawk-Eagle
Golden Eagle
Crested Goshawk
Chinese Sparrowhawk
Besra
Eurasian Sparrowhawk
Northern Goshawk
Eastern Marsh Harrier
Black-eared Kite
Upland Buzzard
Himalayan Buzzard

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

GRUIFORMES: Rallidae

Eurasian Coot

Fulica atra

GRUIFORMES: Gruidae

Black-necked Crane

Grus nigricollis

CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae

Lesser Sand Plover

Charadrius mongolus

CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae

Lesser Sand Plover

Charadrius mongolus

CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae

Wood Snipe (H)
Eurasian Woodcock
Common Redshank
Common Greenshank

Gallinago nemoricola
Scolopax rusticola
Tringa totanus
Tringa nebularia

CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae

Brown-headed Gull
Common Tern
Whiskered Tern
White-winged Tern

Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus
Sterna hirundo tibetana
Chlidonias hybrida
Chlidonias leucopterus

COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae

Rock Dove
Hill Pigeon
Snow Pigeon
Speckled Wood Pigeon
Oriental Turtle Dove
Eurasian Collared Dove
Red Turtle Dove
Spotted Dove

Columba livia
Columba rupestris
Columba leuconota
Columba hodgsonii
Streptopelia orientalis
Streptopelia decaocto
Streptopelia tranquebarica
Spilopelia chinensis

CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae

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

Eudynamys scolopaceus
Hierococcyx sparverioides
Cuculus poliocephalus
Cuculus saturatus
Cuculus canorus

STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae

Collared Scops Owl (H)
 Pere David's Owl
 Little Owl

Otus lettia
Strix davidi
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

CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae

Black-capped Kingfisher
 Common Kingfisher

Halcyon pileata
Alcedo atthis

BUCEROTIFORMES: Upupidae

Eurasian Hoopoe

Upupa epops

PICIFORMES: Picidae

Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker
 Crimson-breasted Woodpecker
 Darjeeling Woodpecker
 Great Spotted Woodpecker
 White-backed Woodpecker
 Black Woodpecker
 Grey-headed Woodpecker
 Bay Woodpecker

Dendrocopos canicapillus
Dendrocopos cathpharius
Dendrocopos darjellensis
Dendrocopos major
Dendrocopos leucotos
Dryocopus martius
Picus canus
Blythipicus pyrrhotis

FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae

Common Kestrel
 Saker Falcon
 Peregrine Falcon
 Eurasian Hobby

Falco tinnunculus
Falco cherrug
Falco peregrinus
Falco subbuteo

PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae

Swinhoe's Minivet
 Long-tailed Minivet
 Short-billed Minivet

Pericrocotus cantonensis
Pericrocotus ethologus
Pericrocotus brevirostris

PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae

Long-tailed Shrike
 Grey-backed Shrike
 Tibetan Grey Shrike

Lanius schach
Lanius tephronotus
Lanius sphenocercus giganteus

PASSERIFORMES: Vireonidae

Blyth's Shrike-babbler (H)

Pteruthius aeralatus

PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae

Black-naped Oriole

Oriolus chinensis

PASSERIFORMES: Dicruridae

Black Drongo

Dicrurus macrocercus

Hair-crested Drongo

Dicrurus hottentottus brevirostris

PASSERIFORMES: Monarchidae

Asian Paradise Flycatcher

Terpsiphone paradisi

PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae

Sichuan Jay

Perisoreus internigrans

Eurasian Jay

Garrulus glandarius

Azure-winged Magpie

Cyanopica cyanus

Red-billed Blue Magpie

Urocissa erythroryncha

Eurasian Magpie

Pica pica bottanensis

Spotted Nutcracker

Nucifraga caryocatactes

Red-billed Chough

Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax

Alpine Chough

Pyrrhocorax graculus

Daurian Jackdaw

Coloeus dauuricus

Oriental Crow

Corvus corone orientalis

Large-billed Crow

Corvus macrorhynchos

Northern Raven

Corvus corax tibetanus

PASSERIFORMES: Stenostiridae

Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher

Culicicapa ceylonensis

PASSERIFORMES: Paridae

Fire-capped Tit

Cephalopyrus flammiceps

Yellow-browed Tit

Sylviparus modestus

Rufous-vented Tit

Periparus rubidiventris

Coal Tit

Periparus ater

Yellow-bellied Tit

Pardaliparus venustulus

Grey Crested Tit

Lophophanes dichrous

White-browed Tit

Poecile superciliosus

Sichuan Tit

Poecile weigoldicus

Ground Tit

Pseudopodoces humilis

Japanese Tit

Parus minor

Green-backed Tit

Parus monticolus

PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae

Oriental Skylark

Alauda gulgula

Crested Lark

Galerida cristata

Horned Lark

Eremophila alpestris

Tibetan Lark

Melanocorypha maxima

PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae

Collared Finchbill

Spizixos semitorques

Brown-breasted Bulbul

Pycnonotus xanthorrhous

Light-vented Bulbul
Black Bulbul

Pycnonotus sinensis
Hypsipetes leucocephalus

PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae

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

Riparia diluta
Hirundo rustica
Ptyonoprogne rupestris
Delichon dasypus
Cecropis daurica

PASSERIFORMES: Pnoepygidae

Pygmy Wren-babbler

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 (H)

Abroscopus albugularis
Horornis fortipes
Horornis acanthizoides
Horornis flavolivaceus
Cettia major
Cettia castaneocoronata

PASSERIFORMES: Aegithalidae

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

Aegithalos concinnus
Aegithalos bonvaloti
Leptopoecile sophiae
Leptopoecile elegans

PASSERIFORMES: Phylloscopidae

Dusky Warbler
Alpine Leaf Warbler
Buff-throated Warbler
Yellow-streaked Warbler
Buff-barred Warbler
Ashy-throated Warbler
Chinese Leaf Warbler
Hume's Leaf 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
Chestnut-crowned Warbler

Phylloscopus fuscatus robustus
Phylloscopus occisinensis
Phylloscopus subaffinis
Phylloscopus armandii
Phylloscopus pulcher
Phylloscopus maculipennis
Phylloscopus yunnanensis
Phylloscopus humei
Phylloscopus trochiloides
Phylloscopus magnirostris
Phylloscopus claudiae
Phylloscopus emeiensis
Phylloscopus ogilviegranti
Phylloscopus ricketti
Phylloscopus forresti
Seicercus tephrocephalus
Seicercus valentini
Seicercus omeiensis
Seicercus castaniceps

PASSERIFORMES: Locustellidae

Sichuan Bush Warbler
Spotted Bush Warbler
Brown Bush Warbler

Locustella chengi
Locustella thoracica
Locustella luteoventris

PASSERIFORMES: Timaliidae

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

Pomatorhinus gravivox
Pomatorhinus ruficollis
Stachyridopsis ruficeps

PASSERIFORMES: Pellorneidae

Golden-fronted Fulvetta
 David's Fulvetta

Alcippe variegaticeps
Alcippe davidi

PASSERIFORMES: Leiothrichidae

Chinese Babax
 Snowy-cheeked Laughingthrush
 Barred Laughingthrush
 Giant Laughingthrush
 Spotted 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
 Red-billed Leiothrix

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

PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae

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

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

PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae

Stripe-throated Yuhina
 White-collared Yuhina
 Black-chinned Yuhina
 Chestnut-flanked White-eye
 Japanese White-eye

Yuhina gularis
Yuhina diademata
Yuhina nigrimenta
Zosterops erythropleurus
Zosterops japonicus

PASSERIFORMES: Regulidae

Goldcrest

Regulus regulus

PASSERIFORMES: Troglodytidae

Eurasian Wren

*Troglodytes troglodytes szetschuanus***PASSERIFORMES: Sittidae**

Eurasian Nuthatch

Sitta europaea

Przevalski's Nuthatch

*Sitta przewalskii***PASSERIFORMES: Tichodromidae**

Wallcreeper

*Tichodroma muraria***PASSERIFORMES: Certhiidae**

Hodgson's Treecreeper

*Certhia hodgsoni***PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae**

Crested Myna

Acridotheres cristatellus

Red-billed Starling

Spodiopsar sericeus

White-cheeked Starling

*Spodiopsar cineraceus***PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae**

Plain-backed Thrush

Zoothera mollissima

Long-tailed Thrush

Zoothera dixonii

Grandala

Grandala coelicolor

Chinese Blackbird

Turdus merula mandarinus

Chestnut Thrush

Turdus rubrocanus

Kessler's Thrush

Turdus kessleri

Chinese Song Thrush

*Turdus mupinensis***PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae**

Oriental Magpie-Robin

Copsychus saularis

Dark-sided Flycatcher

Muscicapa sibirica

Asian Brown Flycatcher

Muscicapa dauurica

Brown-breasted Flycatcher

Muscicapa muttui

Ferruginous Flycatcher

Muscicapa ferruginea

Chinese Blue Flycatcher

Cyornis glaucicomans

Verditer Flycatcher

Eumyias thalassinus

White-browed Shortwing (H)

Brachypteryx montana

Indian Blue Robin

Larvivora brunnea

White-bellied Redstart

Luscinia phoenicuroides

White-tailed Rubythroat

Calliope pectoralis

Siberian Rubythroat

Calliope calliope

Firethroat

Calliope pectardens

White-tailed Robin

Myiomela leucura

White-browed Bush Robin (H)

Tarsiger indicus

Himalayan Bluetail

Tarsiger rufilatus

Golden Bush Robin

Tarsiger chrysaeus

Slaty-backed Forktail

Enicurus schistaceus

Blue Whistling Thrush

Myophonus caeruleus

Yellow-rumped Flycatcher

Ficedula zanthopygia

Slaty-backed Flycatcher

Ficedula hodgsonii

Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher

Ficedula strophinata

Snowy-browed Flycatcher

Ficedula hyperythra

Ultramarine Flycatcher

Ficedula superciliaris

Slaty-blue Flycatcher
Black Redstart
Hodgson's Redstart
White-throated Redstart
Daurian Redstart
Blue-fronted Redstart
Plumbeous Water Redstart
White-capped Redstart
Blue Rock Thrush
Eastern Stonechat
Grey Bush Chat

Ficedula tricolor
Phoenicurus ochruros
Phoenicurus hodgsoni
Phoenicurus schisticeps
Phoenicurus aureoreus
Phoenicurus frontalis
Phoenicurus fuliginosus
Phoenicurus leucocephalus
Monticola solitarius
Saxicola maurus przewalskii
Saxicola ferreus

PASSERIFORMES: Cinclidae

White-throated Dipper
Brown Dipper

Cinclus cinclus
Cinclus pallasii

PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae

Mrs. Gould's Sunbird

Aethopyga gouldiae

PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae

House Sparrow
Russet Sparrow
Eurasian Tree Sparrow
Rock Sparrow
White-rumped Snowfinch
Rufous-necked Snowfinch

Passer domesticus
Passer rutilans
Passer montanus
Petronia petronia
Onychostruthus taczanowskii
Pyrgilauda ruficollis

PASSERIFORMES: Prunellidae

Alpine Accentor
Rufous-breasted Accentor
Maroon-backed Accentor

Prunella collaris
Prunella strophiatea
Prunella immaculata

PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae

Forest Wagtail
Tibetan Citrine Wagtail
Grey Wagtail
Black-backed Wagtail
Amur Wagtail
Olive-backed Pipit
Rosy Pipit

Dendronanthus indicus
Motacilla citreola calcarata
Motacilla cinerea
Motacilla alba alboides
Motacilla alba leucopsis
Anthus hodgsoni
Anthus roseatus

PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae

Collared Grosbeak
White-winged Grosbeak
Chinese Grosbeak
Brown Bullfinch
Grey-headed Bullfinch
Dark-breasted Rosefinch
Plain Mountain Finch
Brandt's Mountain Finch
Common Rosefinch
Streaked Rosefinch

Mycerobas affinis
Mycerobas carnipes
Eophona migratoria sowerbyi
Pyrrhula nipalensis
Pyrrhula erythaca
Procarduelis nipalensis
Leucosticte nemoricola
Leucosticte brandti
Carpodacus erythrinus
Carpodacus rubicilloides

Chinese Beautiful Rosefinch
Pink-rumped Rosefinch
Vinaceous Rosefinch
Long-tailed Rosefinch
Three-banded Rosefinch
Chinese White-browed Rosefinch
Red-fronted Rosefinch
Crimson-browed Finch
Grey-capped Greenfinch
Twite
Red Crossbill
Tibetan Serin

Carpodacus davidianus
Carpodacus waltoni
Carpodacus vinaceus
Carpodacus sibiricus
Carpodacus trifasciatus
Carpodacus dubius
Carpodacus puniceus
Carpodacus subhimachalus
Chloris sinica
Linaria flavirostris
Loxia curvirostra
Spinus thibetana

PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae

Slaty Bunting
Godlewski's Bunting
Yellow-throated Bunting

Emberiza siemsseni
Emberiza godlewskii
Emberiza elegans

OTHER ANIMALS

Pallas's Squirrel
Swinhoe's Squirrel
Perny's Long-nosed Squirrel
Himalayan Marmot
Pere David's Rock Squirrel
Siberian Chipmunk
Plateau Pika
Large-eared Pika
Glover's Pika
Moupin Pika
Woolly Hare
Hog Badger
Tibetan Fox
Tufted Deer
Sika Deer
Roe Deer
Common Goral
Chinese Serow
Blue Sheep
Chinese Tree Frog

Callosciurus erythraeus
Tamiops swinhoei
Dremomys pernyi
Marmota himalayana
Sciurotamias davidianus
Tamias sibiricus
Ochotona curzaniae
Ochotona macrotis
Ochotona gloveri
Ochotona thibetana
Lepus oiostolus
Arctonyx collaris
Vulpes ferrilata
Elephodus cephalophus
Cervus nippon
Capreolus capreolus
Naemorhedus griseus
Capricornis milneedwardsii
Pseudois nayaur
Hyla chinensis



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