

THE TRAVELLING NATURALIST

TRAVEL | EXPERIENCE | CONSERVE



Tour Report

China – Sichuan's Sensational Mammals & Birds

14 – 27 April 2019

Tibetan macaque



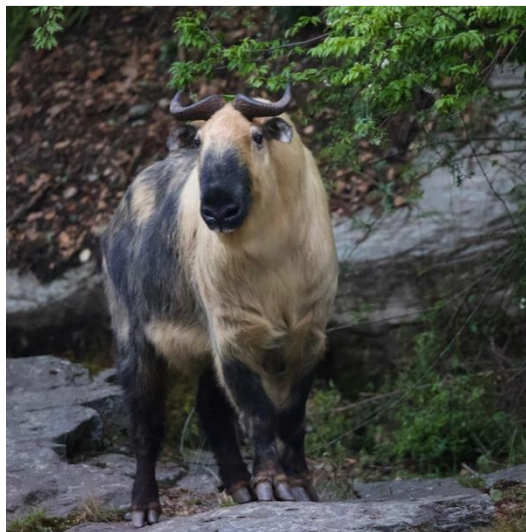
Eurasian eagle-owl



Golden pheasant



Takin



Compiled by Terry Reis.

Photos taken on this tour by Terry Reis except golden pheasant by Adrian Fisher.

Tour Leader: Terry Reis. Local Guide: Tang Jun. Driver: Mr Zhu. Eight participants.

Summary

Sichuan is one of the most scenic parts of China, and supports many iconic wildlife species. It is also noted for its delicious food. This trip's participants experienced all these aspects of this most interesting part of China. Mammals such as red panda, Pallas's cat, Chinese mountain cat, Tibetan fox, wolf and takin were among the highlights, and birds included Chinese monal, Lady Amherst's and golden pheasants, white and blue eared pheasants, saker falcon, bearded vulture, four species of owl and six species of redstarts. Beautiful montane forests contrasted with the treeless grasslands of the Tibetan plateau and the stark beauty of high snow-clad mountains. It was a wonderful sample of the nature of Sichuan. This trip was a wonderful experience, not without its challenges, and generated many great memories.

Day 1: Depart UK

Saturday 13 April 2019

The majority of the group departed the UK for Hong Kong on the first leg of our trip to Sichuan. Adrian, Monica and Terry were already in Chengdu.

Day 2: Hong Kong; Chengdu; Labahe

Sunday 14 April 2019

The flight from Hong Kong to Chengdu arrived a little early. After clearing immigration Roey, David, Aranzazu, Semi, Jackie and Colin met with Tang Jun, the local guide for the trip, and the rest of us. Zhu, our driver, awaited us on the bus. After introductions, and an opportunity to obtain some yuan at the airport, we all climbed aboard the bus and Zhu drove us to Labahe. Initially we travelled on motorways offering little wildlife beyond spotted dove, crested myna, rock dove and barn swallow. More interesting subsequent observations included Eurasian hoopoe, red-billed blue magpie and forest wagtail, the latter seen only by Monica. After turning onto a less major road we stopped for fuel and a 20 minute rest/toilet/snack break. The bus was fitted with an internal monitoring system, obliging Zhu to turn off the engine for 20 minutes every four hours during daylight, and every two hours at night. This stretch of secondary road included many tunnels, some of more than five kilometres in length. These were sometimes interspersed with bridges as we moved across an ever more rugged landscape.

By the time we arrived at the Blue Crystal Hotel set within Labahe National Nature Reserve we had little time to do much other than settle into our rooms prior to dinner at 19.15. During dinner we discussed logistics and Terry provided a short health and safety briefing. After dinner, most of us had an impromptu spotlight around the buildings, Terry having brought his torch. We were somewhat overwhelmed by the light show around the hotel, including a multi-coloured waterfall (the waterfall was real) and a plethora of swans, flowers, horses and trees, among others. We did see four sambar, presumably inured to the lights, and a masked palm civet, which wandered along the opposite bank of the stream that ran beside the hotel. A nice start to our mammal-watching.

Weather: Overcast and humid in Chengdu, about 25°C, cool at Labahe upon arrival, about 10°.

Day 3: Labahe

Monday 15 April 2019

Jackie, Adrian and Monica met Terry at 7.00 for a quick bird around the hotel before a 7.30 breakfast. We were happy to see red-billed blue magpie and plumbeous water and white-capped redstarts, all attractive species and all to prove common and widespread, not that that detracted from this or any subsequent observations. Asian house martins were also conspicuous at the hotel. We weren't in a rush this morning as we could not take our bus beyond a boom gate, from which we must use park shuttle buses and they weren't available until 8.00. So after breakfast we completed the short drive to the gate and transferred to a park bus, which drove us to the eight kilometre mark on Erlang Mountain, approximately 2,500 metres a.s.l. (above sea level). It was an overcast



day and sufficiently cold to require multiple layers of clothing, including gloves. Some snow remained on the highest peaks though this wasn't evident at first due to cloud. We passed a troop of Tibetan macaques at a lookout but Tang insisted we not stop as we'd see them again. Tang saw a resplendent male Lady Amherst's pheasant in a dry gully as we drove, which resulted in some scrambling for position on the bus for views and/or photographs. All saw this bird quite well before it wandered out of sight, an excellent bird for our first morning at Labahe.

We spent the day, including a picnic lunch, walking up and down a few kilometres of paved road, the area identified by park staff and Tang as being best for red panda. Birds seen included a distant crimson-breasted woodpecker, which went through a few iterations of species before we reached a conclusion, coal and green-backed tits, long-tailed minivet, chestnut thrush and brown bush warbler. The latter showed very well in response to Tang's call playback. New bird species were added steadily during the day, other than the slight rush of a mixed species flock that provided black-browed bushtit, David's fulvetta and the stunning golden-breasted fulvetta, among others. Sichuan leaf warbler, rosy pipit and blue-fronted redstarts were common and other species seen included stripe-throated and white-collared yuhinas and rufous-gorgeted flycatcher. Subsequent individuals of the latter were known as 'garroted flycatchers' following Jackie's malapropism. David was the only person to see, and photograph, a male Mrs Gould's sunbird. And a pair of black eagles was a surprise, notably north of their range according to the literature.

Between wandering up and down the road we spent long periods of time scanning treetops and distant slopes for mammals, particularly red panda. Tang, Terry and Adrian each had a scope, which proved very useful throughout the trip when animals were found. Tang spotted a Chinese goral on a far slope, so distant that some of us struggled to find it in the scope. Eventually we could all make out the animal with its distinctive pale legs. It was standing in a bare area, probably an old landslip, in which Tang had seen and photographed a giant panda a few weeks earlier. Unsurprisingly, we spent a lot of time scanning this area during our time at Labahe. At 16.30, as we were pondering leaving, Tang made another remarkable find, a red panda sitting high in a bare tree. Once again the animal was very distant and scopes were required to identify it. We watched the animal for some time before it made its way down the tree and out of sight. We then caught a shuttle bus back down to the car park. A large troop of Tibetan macaque was along the road during the drive back to the hotel. They allowed very close approach for photography. Indeed one male would have entered the bus if not for Zhu still being on board.

At 20.30, after dinner, we drove down to road with Terry and Tang spotlighting from either side of the bus. After a while we all left the bus, which drove on ahead, and walked about a kilometre. Sambar were common, especially on lawns around buildings. We saw our second Chinese goral, this one sitting on a cliff face on the opposite side of the stream. The cliffs also held a red and white giant squirrel, a most striking animal, one of three individuals for the night. The last new species of the day was a complex-toothed flying squirrel seen and photographed at very close range, again on a rock face. This animal appeared to be missing about a third of its tail, lacking the dark tip. Light rain was falling by this stage. We retired for the night.

Weather: Overcast and light rain at night, cool to quite cold.

Day 4: Labahe

Tuesday 16 April 2019

Adrian, Monica, Jackie and Terry met at 7.00 and saw a pair of Reeves's muntjac by the water's edge, courtesy of Adrian's keen eyes, before breakfast. Today we reached the shuttle bus at 8.15 and once again drove up to the eight km mark. A handsome Père David's tit got us going for new birds, in the company of green-backed tit, Sichuan leaf warbler and a female white-browed rosefinch called in by Tang. We found a red-throated thrush in a gully with a flock of rosy pipits. The pipits were remarkably hard to see if they were motionless. We stopped to look at a small herd of domesticated yaks with red-billed blue magpies in the background and Terry found a pair of chestnut-vented nuthatches in a leafless tree. We wandered down to some toilets, with a few Elliot's laughingthrush providing good, if brief, views. A nearby loop trail led up a forested hillside. A second, longer trail, the 'large' trail, branched from this. Most of us took the large loop but Roey and Terry continued on the



shorter trail, stopping after a short distance at a picnic area to wait for everyone else to complete the loop. We saw another crimson-breasted woodpecker, much closer than the first, as well as David's fulvetta, dark-breasted rosefinch, yellow-browed and grey crested tits, golden-breasted fulvetta and Sichuan treecreeper, though not everyone saw the latter.

We returned to the road and most of us walked back up to the eight kilometre mark, some took advantage of a passing shuttle bus. A Naumann's thrush had joined the red-throated thrush in the gully and a male blue-fronted redstart posed very well for photographs. Tang called in two or more fulvous parrotbill, which lurked in the undergrowth, occasionally giving views. Terry was particularly happy with this, having missed the earlier one. We continued to scan treetops and slopes but without success, though we did attract the attention of quite a few locals and were subject to requests for selfies. Eventually we caught a passing bus back down the road to a viewing platform but the absence of any evident wildlife saw us catch a bus at 16.20 and return to the hotel, where a troop of Tibetan macaque awaited us. After our 19.00 dinner most of us wandered about photographing the light show and looking for fauna. We were rewarded only with sambar and a snipe that flushed from the stream. Tang wasn't with us but later said it was most likely a pin-tailed snipe.

Weather: Light rain before breakfast and at 10.00 for a while. Warmer than yesterday, but still cold at times.



Complex-toothed flying squirrel



Blue-fronted redstart

Day 5: Labahe; drive to Wolong

Wednesday 17 April 2019

Monica, Adrian and Terry saw four brown dipper along the stream pre-breakfast. The macaques were still around the hotel buildings. We breakfasted a little earlier today and were at the gate at 7.50, to make the most of our last morning at Labahe. We drove to the end of the road this morning, nine kilometres. On the way, Jackie spotted a male Lady Amherst's pheasant close to our first sighting, possibly the same bird. We walked back down the road, still trying for better views of red panda. Birds seen included yellow-browed tit, David's fulvetta, Eurasian sparrowhawk, northern raven and white-collared yuhina. We also bumped up our mammal tally with two sightings of Swinhoe's striped squirrel, which weren't especially shy but certainly didn't stay still. As we neared the park gate in our last shuttle bus ride Jackie saw another male Lady Amherst's pheasant, very close to the road, with a female in the background. We returned to the hotel at 10.30, checked out and departed at 11.00.

We hadn't travelled far when we encountered a landslide that had blocked the road. We sat for about 30 minutes until the road was cleared for one-way traffic and were thankful that our direction of travel was chosen to proceed first. A substantial number of vehicles had built up. This delay caused Tang to reschedule our lunch stop and we deviated slightly from the main road to stop at a village. Monica and Adrian saw russet sparrow as we waited for the meal to be prepared. We continued on but suffered another delay when a traffic accident closed both lanes of the road. We sat and added a few common species to trip lists, such as Eurasian tree sparrow and

little egret, as the bus occasionally edged slightly forward. Eventually we got going again but the two delays had affected our timing and we had to stop and turn the engine off for 20 minutes. Tang had Zhu leave the motorway and stop on a side road. We wandered along a concrete path through some gardens and added yet a few more common species, light-vented bulbul, white-browed laughingthrush, collared finchbill and little bunting, though not everyone saw the latter. We resumed travelling and arrived at the Wolong Panda Conservation Hotel at 19.45, our planned seven hour journey taking eight and a half hours. We rushed for dinner before the dining room stopped taking orders and decided against spotlighting.

Weather: Overcast, notably warmer during much of the journey, after leaving Labahe. Probably low 20s.

Day 6: Wolong; Balang Shan

Thursday 18 April 2019

We left at 5.30, pre-dawn, for the drive up Balang Shan mountain, taking breakfast and lunch. Our first stop, quite an abrupt one, was for a cat. Unfortunately we concluded it was a domestic cat, not a leopard cat. After a while we began to climb steadily until we stopped next to a large, deep hole in the road with attendant witches hats to warn motorists. Before we had a chance to get out of the bus Tang spotted a white eared pheasant walking up a nearby slope. Some of us had excellent views before it moved into cover. This was a very convenient park on an otherwise difficult-to-stop road as it was next to our first destination, a flat, safe area beside the road that commanded good views of the landscape, with snow-capped peaks in the background. It was a glorious day, with bright sunshine and excellent viewing conditions. We set up our scopes and found another nine white eared pheasants in plain view, albeit some distance away. Two male Chinese monals flew into view, appearing glossy black and confusing at first. One landed on a slope and walked up to the ridgeline where it gave clear, if distant, views through the scopes. A pair of giant laughingthrush on the ground was seen by Jackie and Terry and an alpine leaf warbler by Colin and Tang. Also present were coal tit and chestnut thrush. We had breakfast at this spot and were joined by another tour group, though most of them seemed less than enthusiastic about birding. Their guide spotted a male Koklass Pheasant, which had been calling throughout but eluding us. It eventually hopped up onto the concrete wall beside the road before crossing the road and going up the slope.

We had also been hearing Verreaux's monal-partridge (chestnut-throated partridge) calling from across the road. Call playback achieved nothing so we all walked along the road towards them, moving eventually into another flattish area off the road. From here some of us saw giant laughingthrush in a scope and we all watched a Himalayan buzzard both in flight and perched, though always at some distance. The partridges continued to ignore us so we worked our way around an old section of the road. Here we watched Asian house martins and our first white-throated redstart, perched on a wire. We searched in vain for pikas on a rock face. The bus had driven further up the road and waited where the current and discarded roads met. We climbed aboard and Zhu drove us to another location where we could all stand safely by the roadside. We set up our scopes and almost immediately a magnificent bearded vulture (lammergeier – the 'lamb vulture') soared slowly by, seemingly just over our heads. A number of Himalayan vultures (griffons) were present and Tang spotted a herd of blue sheep on a distant slope. Tang's ability to see very distant wildlife was quite extraordinary. At one point Terry suggested that he only recognised his children if they were at least one km away.

A flock of grandalas and a number of rosy pipit were seen before we drove up to the top of the pass, just under 4,500 metres a.s.l. Snow and ice were on the ground in places. Alpine choughs flew about us and a sole snow pigeon went by high overhead. Tang continued to search assiduously for Tibetan snowcock and snow partridge, his call playback proving fruitless. We returned to the lammergeier spot for lunch, seeing more grandala and red-billed chough. Things were quiet so we abandoned the wildlife to head back to the hotel, arriving at 15.30 after an exciting and beautiful day. We had dinner at 19.00 and left for spotlighting at 20.00. We returned at 23.00 having driven 60 kilometres return for a very poor view of Chinese goral and a pair of unidentified eyes high on a slope.



Weather: Clear, sunny day. Snow and ice still on the ground at 4,500 metres but surprisingly warm, if you wore thermals and multiple layers.

Day 7: Wolong to Hongyuan

Friday 19 April 2019

We enjoyed a late breakfast, 8.00, before starting our journey to Hongyuan on the Tibetan Plateau. Today was a travelling day. Any wildlife would be a bonus. Early on we were on major roads with reasonably heavy traffic. We saw some remarkable overtaking, making us value Zhu's careful driving. Again there were plenty of tunnels and motorway construction, as per days two and five. We stopped for lunch at 12.00 during light rain. Tang suggested we check the river adjacent to where we parked for Godlewski's bunting and the cliffs opposite for wallcreeper as lunch was prepared. Aranzazu spotted a bunting in a tree and Tang's knowledge was revealed, again. Also present were white wagtail, Elliot's laughingthrush and plumbeous and white-capped redstarts. We continued on after lunch, with some light rain initially but then sunshine.

We stopped at a police check (not our first) but this time we had to present ourselves and our passports as we were about to head onto the Tibetan Plateau, obviously an area of some political tension. This was relieved somewhat by one policeman offering us Pringles crisps (or a generic), which Terry happily accepted. Once on the plateau proper the valley gradually broadened and the flanking mountains became hills. We entered open country, with a multitude of yaks. It rained again about 16.30 and the journey was almost entirely under leaden skies but we saw cinereous vulture, ruddy shelduck and black-necked crane nonetheless. Aranzazu spotted some deer, which proved to be Siberian roe, our only sighting of the species. It was cold and windy on the plateau and we were pleased to arrive at the Li Wan Hot Spring Hotel in Hongyuan at 18.30, a nine and a half hour journey.

Weather: Cool and overcast, some rain.

Day 8: Hongyuan; Ruorgai

Saturday 20 April 2019

We had breakfast at 8.00 and then headed off, well layered against the cold, as it was 0°C according to my hotel room television. Tang's expectation was that it would take us all day to drive 140 kilometres to Ruorgai. Our proper first stop, in that we alighted from the bus, rewarded us with Kessler's thrush, common pheasant, Eurasian magpie, ruddy shelduck, Japanese tit and white-browed tit. A pair of the latter showed briefly on top of a bush but dropped out of sight before everyone saw them. One or more plain laughingthrush played hide and seek with us for a while before most of us saw the species. It's well named. Our second stop was for a dozen azure-winged magpies along the river adjacent to the road. Also present were a Himalayan vulture and quite a few skylarks. We continued on in this vein, stopping in response to birds, for some time. Species seen included cinereous vulture, red-billed chough, common kestrel, Siberian stonechat, upland buzzard and grey-backed shrike. We stopped at a waterbody in a small town and saw widespread species, great egret, great cormorant and barn swallow. A bit further on, still in the town, we stopped again for a more extensive waterbody, partly due to a call of 'monkey' from someone who will remain nameless to protect the guilty. This was an excellent stop, with three ferruginous duck, three little stint, one little ringed plover, about 10 common redshanks, one Pallas's gull, unfortunately flying away from us, and a truly stunning citrine wagtail. This black-backed subspecies of citrine wagtail may be split in the near future.

Further on, Tang spotted a Himalayan marmot along a fence line on a ridge, causing some excitement. We scoped the animal, and a second individual seen subsequently, though with hindsight this wasn't necessary. This proved to be a very common species. We stopped at a small town for lunch. Several of us wandered out the back to use the toilet and Terry spotted pikas and their burrows behind the toilet. We wandered outside to avail ourselves of photographic opportunities as lunch was prepared. These were plateau pikas and would prove to be abundant in certain places. We went back to our noodle lunch and then went back outside for more pikas. Several of us followed a herd of yaks and their herdsman down a laneway towards a group of Himalayan vultures that sat along a ridgeline. They seemed quite reluctant to move though they did drop below the



ridgeline if we approached too closely, largely thwarting our attempts at in flight photography. We discovered why they were there; on the river flats below the ridge was a pile of yak carcasses, mostly red rib cages. A flock of azure-winged magpies was feeding on the bones, providing interesting colour contrast. Our first ground tits were hopping about. It seems quite extraordinary that they were ever considered to belong to the corvids, not that they look or act much like tits. We also saw our only Tibetan lark of the trip, though views were poor. Instructions as to the whereabouts of the bird focused on a particularly distinctive pile of yak dung.

We stopped at another large waterbody some distance on. There were lots of ruddy shelduck, some ferruginous duck and more stints and redshanks. Three or more rufous-necked snowfinch landed on the ground and were joined by four ground tits. A flock of martins on the wires stimulated a discussion between Adrian and Terry as to their identity, sand martin vs pale martin. Terry concluded they were sand martins but post-tour perusal of literature made this assessment uncertain. Semi spotted a dark vole in among the pikas and we watched this animal for some time; more than one was present. Habitat, altitude and colour seemed to rule out all possibilities as per the *Mammals of China* (Smith & Xie 2013) and the animals were frustratingly not even identified to genus. Our next stop was at a site for Przevalski's finch. This species, formerly known as pink-tailed bunting, is now in a monotypic family, Urocynchramidae. This makes it much sought after by birders. We stayed here for quite some time, seeing marmots, upland buzzards and bearded vulture. Tang did see the finch, but was by himself at the time. Despite call playback it never reappeared. We moved on again, Tang somewhat reluctantly, and stopped at a quarry to see a saker falcon sitting on its nest. We eventually arrived at Ruergai at 17.00, a flock of brown-headed gulls meeting us as we drove in. It had been an excellent drive.



Plateau pika



Himalayan vulture

Post-dinner, at 20.45, we headed off to spotlight from the vehicle. We started at 21.00, along a dirt road, which still had a surprising amount of traffic. Tang found a Chinese mountain cat very quickly but views were somewhat obscured by long grass. On the outward journey, we also saw two woolly hare and a red fox, which wasn't remotely red. On the return journey we saw three hares, a very poor view of what was probably Chinese badger and good views of Chinese mountain cat. Indeed Tang said that this was the best view he'd ever had of one at night. It was bitterly cold for Tang and Terry leaning out the bus windows with their torches and they were very happy to return to the warmth of the hotel at 21.50.

Weather: Heavy cloud for most of the day, some rain, some light snow, cold, 0° at 7.40.

Day 9: Tibetan plateau around Ruergai

Sunday 21 April 2019

We left the hotel at 6.00, taking breakfast and lunch with us. We drove for 40 minutes, until a rock moved and revealed itself as a Tibetan fox. It disappeared from view quite quickly. We had in fact all but arrived at our intended breakfast spot in any case. During our meal we saw the first white-rumped snowfinch, the first of

many, and common kestrel. We then walked away from the road along a track taking us into a series of treeless hills and quarries. We saw a horned lark and a sole ruddy shelduck complained about our presence. Terry saw another distant Tibetan fox, which we watched in the scopes. Monica saw it catch a pika. We wandered towards a quarry, where Tang had seen Pallas's cat before. He then got very excited, having spotted one sitting near the top of a hill. We watched the cat for quite some time, gradually moving closer. It obviously knew we were there but didn't appear too concerned. Occasionally it moved, at times half-entering burrows. It gradually made its way up towards the top of the hill. Tang thought it might go to shelter in the rock piles at the quarry and suggested we go there, conceal ourselves somewhat and wait for it. He went further in the 'gorge' to see if he could encourage it to move towards us. Unfortunately none of us saw it again.

The quarry held a few species, such as twite, black redstart and nesting upland buzzard. Terry was scanning the quarry and found a Eurasian eagle-owl sitting on a ledge with whitewash and a number of regurgitated pellets, evidence that this was a regular roost site. It may even have been nesting. We got closer for photos, taking care not to flush the bird. We did, however, flush a second, closer eagle-owl that we hadn't noticed. It flew out of sight around the wall of the quarry. Tang appeared on the ridgeline and Monica, Aranzazu and Semi went to join him. The rest of us wandered into the gorge, a somewhat generous descriptor as used by Tang. A shepherd on horseback and their flock was on an adjacent ridge. She called out to us but we could not understand beyond 'hello'. She tied their horse to a rock and scrambled down the steep, rocky slope. Jackie did her best to converse, the shepherdess speaking only a modicum of English but much more than our Chinese. Monica and Adrian subsequently joined us and Monica thought she was inviting us to have a meal with her. She removed her face covering when Terry asked permission for a group photo. We saw two robin accentors and Eurasian tree sparrow in this treeless place. After a while the group was fully reunited and we watched two distant Tibetan fox, Himalayan vultures, bearded vulture, black kite and innumerable white-rumped snowfinches and plateau pikas. Some of us got excellent photos of a very obliging Himalayan marmot. We wandered back to the bus after 11.30 and drove further north.

We saw more brown-headed gulls, a number of black-necked cranes and lots of black kites and upland buzzards. A saker flew past very fast and very close to the ground. We reached a small town where we turned onto a one lane concrete elevated road, with occasional widened areas to allow vehicles to pass. Along here we stopped for lunch, about 13.00. Monica spotted a single distant Tibetan gazelle. As we ate a yak herder wandered over to join us. He didn't have that much else to do apparently. Snow fell lightly during lunch and it was very cold. Afterwards we wandered up a valley through a herd of yak. There were quite a few gazelles present but they didn't allow close approach. And it's hard to sneak up on wildlife on a treeless steppe. We did see more red-billed chough and spotted a little owl in a rock crevice, looking somewhat rock-like itself. Several of us walked laboriously up a surprisingly steep slope only for it to fly before we got close enough for photos. We moved on again, driving to a small pass in the mountains, which looked north towards much taller, snow-capped peaks. We were at slightly over 3,700 metres a.s.l., the mountains to the north ranged up to 4,400 metres. Here we found what may have been wolf prints in the mud as well as three Tibetan partridge. The birds were seen briefly on a slope and Terry and Tang wandered over to try and drive them from cover so that everyone could see them. The birds flew from much further up than expected and only a few of us saw them. Terry and Tang were rewarded for their effort with twite, red-throated thrush and a male pink-rumped rosefinch, the latter being the only one of the trip. Kessler's thrush was also present. A large flock of plain mountain finch appeared just before we headed back to the hotel, arriving after 17.00. We didn't spotlight tonight.

Weather: Overcast, probably about 0°C at 6.00, some light snow during the day. Cold and dull all day.

Day 10: Ruoergai, Baxi Forest

Monday 22 April 2019

We left the hotel at 6.30, stopping for a quick, simple breakfast at a café before leaving Ruoergai at 6.50. It was overcast, with heavy low cloud and thick fog at first, with very poor visibility. By the time of our first stop, at some conifers, most of the fog had lifted. There were a lot of black kites perched in several dead trees. They gradually took to the air as conditions improved. The bushes along the road held plain laughingthrush, which

provided better views than previously, Godlewski's bunting and white-browed tit, enabling a few people who'd missed it the first time to catch up. Common pheasant was seen on a slope across a largely frozen stream. We wandered a bit further down, standing on a high point overlooking the forested stream. Both blue eared pheasant and blood pheasant called. Tang's call playback brought an immediate response from a pair of blue eared pheasant that came into the open, on the icy stream. They gave excellent, prolonged views. Tang advised that blood pheasant doesn't respond to playback. Other species seen here included chestnut and Kessler's thrushes and snowy-cheeked laughingthrush, with good scope views of the endemic laughingthrush.

We proceeded in the bus, seeing two more pairs of blue eared pheasant, including a pair near the road, and Elliot's laughingthrush. We stopped to spend some time scanning a slope for Chinese serow and birds and the sun came out, which was welcome. Himalayan vultures soared high and the fields opposite were full of common pheasant. Jackie saw a grey-headed woodpecker sitting atop a broken conifer. We eventually wandered down to the road and up the other side. Birds seen here included olive-backed pipit, Sichuan and Japanese tits, white-throated redstart, Sichuan leaf warbler, twite, cinereous vulture and an untickable white-winged grosbeak which perched very briefly, identified only by Tang. We drove on to a village and had a brief walk, seeing two female white-browed rosefinch, two subspecies of white wagtail and giant laughingthrush. Lunch was in a local restaurant before we headed back toward Ruoergai. We saw a pair of Daurian jackdaw on wires before heading down our spotlighting road looking for sika deer. It was very cold and hailed on us for a while. Those of us dedicated (stupid?) enough to be outside the bus saw a saker go past. There was an extraordinary number of marmots along this road. We arrived at the hotel at 16.00 and had a break before dinner. Afterwards we went spotlighting along the same road, seeing two woolly hares on both outward and inward journeys and a probable cat, it was too far away. Arrived back at the hotel at 21.25.

Weather: Highly variable, at times very cold, with light rain, hail and sunshine.

Day 11: Ruoergai

Tuesday 23 April 2019

Our target species for today was wolf, and when Tang is focused, he is *very* focused. How could we fail? We left the hotel at 6.00 and called in for some dumplings before leaving town. There was a clear sky at first, temperature about -2°C, but fog developed as we drove. There was a very heavy frost on the ground, a carpet of white. We stopped at 6.45 to scan for wolves and other fauna and saw four Tibetan foxes. The fog grew heavier so we moved on. At 7.30 we stopped for breakfast. Four gazelle were visible, at some distance. After breakfast we headed back towards Ruoergai. Terry saw a wolf on a ridgeline. It disappeared fairly quickly. Some of us got photos, but Aranzazu saw it emerge from behind the hill, enabling scope views. It turned a few times to stare at us over its shoulder as it moved away. Happy with our 'lone wolf', we drove back to the pass of two days ago. A handsome male streaked rosefinch was there to greet us, notable for its spotted underparts. Whoever named it obviously saw it from the back. Kessler's thrush and Eurasian magpie were also obvious. Tang and Semi saw a rufous-breasted accentor, which eluded everyone else apart from very poor flight views. We also had flight views of snow pigeon. We moved further down the road, towards snow-capped mountains and onto an area overlooking cliffs. The scenery was spectacular and the light was perfect. There we saw more snow pigeon, Himalayan vulture, bearded vulture and a very distant herd of blue sheep resting on a mountainside. A golden eagle was spotted by Semi. It was a long way away and generated much debate as to its identity. It flew a bit closer and scope views and Adrian's photos helped clarify its identity.

We went back to the bus for lunch. There were two black-necked cranes and some ruddy shelduck in a marshy area nearby. Two saker falcons appeared with common kestrel for comparison, showing just how big the sakers are. A flock of snow pigeon landed on the hillside beside us, presenting very good scope views. Having finished lunch we drove to a quarry to look for Pallas's cat but a freshly dug deep trench stopped us from progressing. A saker flew out of the quarry as we pondered our options. We continued on to the original Pallas's cat quarry and saw the two eagle-owls, roosting in exactly the same locations. One of the upland buzzards was on the nest and a few twite were present. Tang had us gather on an overhang (Adrian did enquire as to how much it was undercut) as he tried to flush a Pallas's cat from the rock piles. He failed, but then there may not have been one



to flush. Semi saw a red fox and the rest of us saw marmots, pikas, cinereous vulture and black kite. Eventually we wandered back to the bus, seeing ground tit, horned lark, white-rumped and rufous-necked snowfinches as we went. We arrived back at the hotel at 17.40.

Weather: Very cold and cloudy morning, glorious sunny day afterwards.

Day 12: Ruoergai to Tangjiahe Nature Reserve

Wednesday 24 April 2019

We had breakfast at the same café at 7.00, returned to the hotel to collect our belongings and checked out at 7.50. It started as a beautiful sunny day, if somewhat cool, a bit wasted on a travel day. Initially we headed south from Ruoergai and at 9.20 we started our descent from the Tibetan Plateau, from 3,840 metres a.s.l. We had seen species typical of the steppe by this point, Himalayan vulture, upland buzzard and Himalayan marmot. We stopped to scan a slope for Chinese serow and saw a male Siberian rubythroat calling from wires. Also present were chestnut thrush and saker falcon. Post-lunch we stopped by a stream for a 20 minute break. This is a known location for collared crow. Here we saw brown dipper, brown-breasted bulbul, collared finchbill and red-billed blue magpie. A collared crow was seen from the bus shortly after we resumed our journey. Light rain fell in the afternoon and as we arrived at the Tangjiahe nature reserve gate at 18.00 we encountered a storm, with thunder and lightning. We still had 11 kilometres of road to reach our hotel. We saw two pairs of takin close to the road but the animals fled quickly. By now it had hailed and the rain was torrential. We began to encounter mud and forest debris washed onto the road.

The mud, sticks and rocks were sufficiently deep at one point that we stopped and Tang, Zhu and Terry alighted to walk through and check it was passable. We continued on carefully but stopped at another such spot. The mud here was deeper and the debris much larger. Water and mud were still flowing across the road, though the rain had eased. Terry walked through this section to where he could see a much larger slip further on. We definitely could not traverse that, so we turned around. We saw and photographed another takin as we drove back to the gate. Tang had been making phone calls as we drove and considering our options. There was apparently no close alternative accommodation and a bulldozer was on its way to clear the road, supposedly by 21.00. We decided to go have dinner at the last town and then return. We were buoyed by the sight of the bulldozer passing us. After dinner, as we returned to the bus to drive back Tang told us the reserve had been officially closed to traffic. But he hoped that the gate guard would let us through. If he didn't we would have to sleep in the bus, so there was a little cheer as the boom gate rose when we arrived. We spotlighted as we drove up, with rain falling again. Almost immediately we had a poor view of a hog badger moving off the road and then very good views of masked palm civet. Also seen were two wild boar and quite a few Reeves's muntjac. We eventually reached the bulldozer, working to clear the slip that Terry had correctly deemed impassable. Four vehicles were between it and us and another vehicle appeared beyond the dozer. So we knew the road was clear to the hotel once past this obstacle. The dozer completed the task sufficiently to let everyone through and we reached our hotel rooms at 23.00. A very long day. The beds looked much more comfortable than the bus.

Weather: Sunny, then overcast, rain, hail.

Day 13: Tangjiahe Nature Reserve

Thursday 25 April 2019

Given the night before, we had an 8.00 breakfast and 9.00 departure this morning. The cloud was high and cleared quickly as we walked up beside the river. We started with little bunting, red-billed blue magpie and yellow-bellied and green-backed tits around the hotel rooms. The river provided the expected brown dipper and plumbeous water and white-capped redstarts. A female Mrs Gould's sunbird was somewhat poor compensation for those of us yet to see the species, the male being quite striking. A calling golden pheasant did not respond to call playback, though a Kloss's leaf warbler did. We encountered a mixed species flock that induced neck pain as we searched overhead. The flock contained red-billed Leiothrix, grey-headed canary flycatcher, sooty bushtit, rufous-faced warbler, Marten's warbler and Claudia's leaf warbler. The latter two species were identified by call, though Claudia's leaf warbler does characteristically open its wings a great deal. Most of us only saw a subset of



these species. Salim Ali's swifts were present in small numbers and Asian house martins were nesting on a rock face. A crested kingfisher flew upstream as we returned to the hotel for lunch.

We had a break after lunch, unusual for this trip, and didn't venture forth as a group until 16.00. Quite a few of us did wander about near the hotel beforehand, including a trail across the river linked by two suspension bridges. Adrian and Monica recorded our only mountain bulbul on the trail. We all walked along the road from the hotel, heading for the gate. Two bulldozers and various people were still clearing the road of debris and mud, though the road was open to traffic. Yellow-bellied tit was in roadside vegetation and three corvids, Eurasian jay, red-billed blue magpie and large-billed crow, were active along the river. Adrian, Jackie and Terry had very close and lengthy views of the wing movements of Claudia's leaf warbler as David photographed the bird. Other species seen included brown-breasted bulbul, collared finchbill and a handsome chestnut-crowned warbler. We stopped after three km to wait for the bus and Terry saw a large-billed crow attacking a snake on the road. He ran back to see the snake, followed by everyone but Tang, who wanted nothing to do with it. The snake, which was quite handsome, appeared uninjured and sat in a strike pose, with its tail quivering strangely. It struck somewhat half-heartedly a few times, without opening its mouth. Eventually it crawled off into the roadside gutter. Terry didn't know what it was but was very confident it wasn't dangerous. He catches snakes as part of his work in Australia. This subsequently proved correct. It was a mandarin rat snake, a non-venomous colubrid that is very popular in the pet trade.



Red-billed blue magpie



Mandarin rat snake

The bus had arrived and drove us another kilometre down the road to an open, grassy area signposted as a viewing spot of takin and Asiatic black bear. Four takin were present, but the bear disappointed us. The takin were quite variable in colour and pattern and all were browsing from shrubs, not grazing. One Reeves's muntjac was also present. An Asian barred owlet flew into a bare tree and sat nicely as we found it in scopes. Tang played its call and it flew into another tree before disappearing across the road. During the drive back to the hotel we saw a boar and Tang spotted a takin standing on rocks across the river. It made its way down to a pool for a drink and provided good photographic opportunities. We returned to the hotel at 19.30, had dinner and left for spotlighting at 20.40, driving towards the gate. Almost immediately Terry saw a masked palm civet across the river. Next was a tawny fish owl perched next to the road. Very close views but too brief for photos. A takin was right next to the road, just over the barrier. This showed us just how large takin are. A hog badger was walking on an area of lawn but moving away from us. Most of us saw it but none of us particularly well. Only Tang saw the animal's head. We then had our best view of a Chinese goral, with one sitting on the opposite bank. Wild boar and Reeves's muntjac were also seen. On the return leg we had a goral right next to the bus and Tang saw a Eurasian otter in the river. Unfortunately, no one else saw it. We were back at the hotel at 22.15.

Weather: Sunny with some cloud in the afternoon, cool to warm, good conditions.

Day 14: Tangjiahe Nature Reserve

Friday 26 April 2019

At 6.30 Terry wandered across the suspension bridge to the 'forest' tennis court looking for golden pheasant. One called almost as soon as he entered the forest and it wasn't long before he had some excellent views of a male. He wandered back to the bridge to see if anyone else was about and saw Monica and Adrian approaching the bridge. Terry's gesturing saw them increase their pace. Eventually the bird reappeared and was photographed. A female was also seen briefly. We returned to the hotel for 7.30 breakfast. At 8.00 we all left in the bus and drove to the shuttle bus car park, crossing the river on a bridge. Four Tibetan macaque sat on the road, the first ones we'd seen at Tangjiahe. Aranzazu saw a crested kingfisher perched along the river. Tang had booked us onto the first shuttle bus of the day. It was a very noisy 10 km drive, with a video about Tangjiahe wildlife, especially giant panda, showing for most of the trip. We disembarked and started walking along a trail to the top of the mountain. This was quite a popular walk and many Chinese visitors shared the path, some of them quite inappropriately dressed for the exercise. The presence of all these people would not have helped us see wildlife.

We started with large-billed leaf warbler, with Tang using call playback, and sooty bush-tit. Then we all had reasonably good views of a male golden pheasant, again using call playback. As we approached one clearing a Père David's rock squirrel was seen sitting, appropriately, on rocks before disappearing. Not everyone saw the animal, at least not well. From the clearing we watched a perched Eurasian sparrowhawk and a large raptor in flight. It appeared just as a silhouette but Adrian's photo showed barring on the underparts, indicating mountain hawk-eagle. Continuing on we had excellent views of pygmy wren-babbler, called from concealment by Tang. It posed nicely on a rock in full view and very close. Chinese leaf warblers were common and we had good views of a calling male Indian blue robin. We stopped in an open area, with a shelter. Tang positioned himself to scan two slopes. Another guide saw giant panda from this spot on 6 April, and Tang and the October 2018 tour group had seen Asiatic black bear. Golden snub-nosed monkeys were also a possibility. Unfortunately the light was very poor, with mist over the mountains.

David and Roey stayed here with Tang and everyone else wandered up to a fork in the path, with each branch going a short distance further up the mountain. Long-tailed Minivet was seen here despite the light rain. We wandered back to the others in dribs and drabs, with Terry and Adrian seeing brown-breasted bulbul and possible Martens's warbler on the way. We all made our way back down to the bus park, moving at different speeds as determined by physical fitness and, in some cases, the strength or otherwise of our knees. Terry did try to call out a Himalayan blue-tail, a number of which were calling, but without success. We assembled at the shuttle bus and travelled back together. Zhu and the bus were still en route when we got back and most of us walked to the bridge where we saw blue whistling thrush, initially looking crow like until landing, revealing the deep blue. We arrived back at the hotel at 15.00, having seen one Tibetan macaque en route. We had dinner at 19.30 and spotlighted from the bus from 20.30 to 22.00. It rained for much of the time. Once again we saw masked palm civet along the river, plenty of muntjac, one takin, very close views of two Chinese goral, one boar and, finally, Chinese serow. The serow was seen in an open area on both the outward and inward legs, presumably the same individual.

Weather: Overcast all day, some rain, cool.

Day 15: Tangjiahe nature reserve to Chengdu

Saturday 27 April 2019

At 6.00 Terry once again went in pursuit of golden pheasant at the tennis court, this time with his camera. It rained lightly. He saw two females but there was no evidence of a male. David joined him, but still no male pheasant. As they walked back over the suspension bridge there was a takin walking around the water's edge on the side of the hotel buildings. Four Père David's rock squirrels were seen bounding from rock to rock. A Eurasian hoopoe was on the hotel roof. We breakfasted at 7.30 and departed the hotel at 8.30 for the drive to Chengdu. We experienced patchy rain through much of the day but still managed to see some birds, such as Daurian redstart, long-tailed shrike, black-crowned night heron and Chinese pond heron. Our only red-billed



starlings for the tour were seen on the outskirts of Chengdu. Instead of going straight to the hotel we detoured to the Panda Park, where those of us over 60 were pleased to discover free entry. All of us looked at the giant pandas and red pandas except Terry, who may have been the first visitor not to see either. But his efforts to see some final birds before the end of the tour weren't especially fruitful. White-browed laughingthrush, white wagtail and Eurasian tree sparrow were in the car park as we assembled for departure. A single eastern spot-billed duck flew over. Tang had already left but we collected him en route to the Vegas Culture Hotel, our accommodation for the night. Tang us to a nearby restaurant for our final meal. Afterwards we said some goodbyes, as David and Roey were staying on for a few more days and Tang wasn't joining us in the morning.

Weather: Overcast, patchy rain through most of the journey, warmer in Chengdu.

Day 16: Fly to the UK

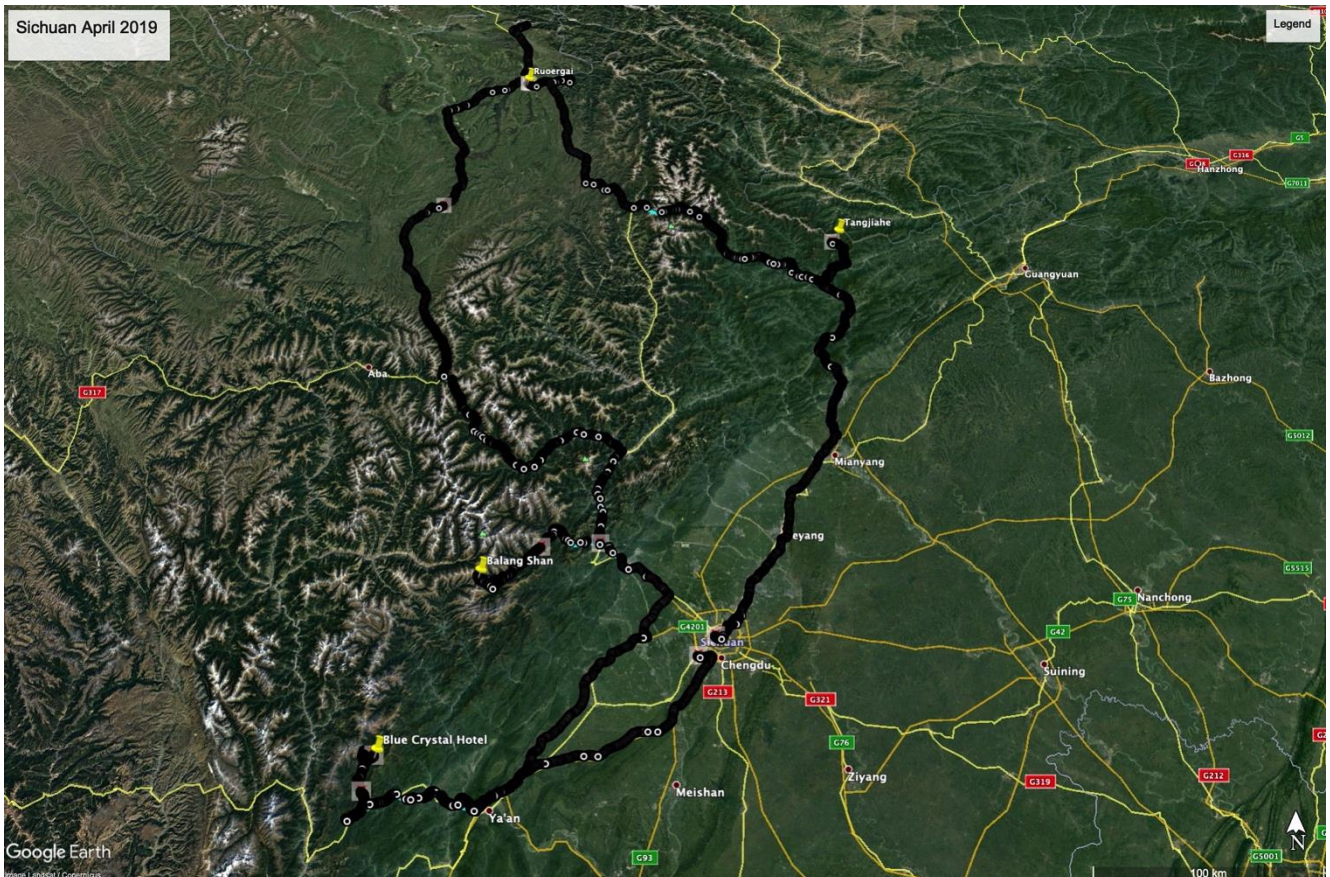
Sunday 28 April 2019

Those of us catching flights had a very early start, Terry waking the night staff at reception, both of whom were asleep on the floor. Zhu drove us to the airport from where we all flew to Hong Kong. Terry left the rest of the group there, his flight to Brisbane leaving an hour earlier than the flights to London.



References

- Arlot, N. (2017) *Birds of south-east Asia*. William Collins, London.
- Brazil, M. (2009) *Birds of east Asia: China, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, and Russia*. Princeton University Press, Princeton.
- Brazil, M. (2018) *Birds of Japan*. Helm, London.
- del Hoyo, J. & Collar, N.J. (2016) *HBW and Birdlife International illustrated checklist of the birds of the world. Volume 2: passerines*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.
- Mackinnon, J. (2000) *A field guide to the birds of China*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- Smith, A.T. & Xie, Y. (eds.) (2013) *Mammals of China*. Princeton University Press, Princeton.



Tour route, April 2019

Checklist



	Common Name	Scientific Name	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11	Day 12	Day 13	Day 14	Day 15
	MAMMALS	MAMMALIA														
1	Tibetan Macaque	<i>Macaca thibetana</i>		✓	✓	✓										✓
2	Red and White Giant Flying Squirrel	<i>Petaurista alborufus</i>		✓												
3	Complex-toothed Flying Squirrel	<i>Trogopterus xanthipes</i>		✓												
4	Pallas's Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus erythraeus</i>			✓											
5	Swinhoe's Striped Squirrel	<i>Tamias swinhoi</i>				✓										
6	Himalayan Marmot	<i>Marmota himalayana</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
7	Pére David's Rock Squirrel	<i>Sciurotamias davidianus</i>													✓	✓
8	Plateau Pika	<i>Ochotona curzoniae</i>							✓	✓		✓				
9	Woolly Hare	<i>Lepus oiostolus</i>							✓		✓					
10	Chinese Mountain Cat	<i>Felis bieti</i>							✓							
11	Pallas's Cat	<i>Felis manul</i>								✓						
12	Masked Palm Civet	<i>Paguma larvata</i>	✓										✓	✓	✓	



13	Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>										✓				
14	Tibetan Fox	<i>Vulpes ferrilata</i>								✓		✓				
15	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>								✓		✓				
16	Red Panda	<i>Ailurus fulgens</i>		✓												
17	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>											✓	✓	✓	
18	Siberian Roe	<i>Capreolus pygargus</i>							✓							
19	Reeves's Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>														
20	Sambar	<i>Rusa unicolor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓										
21	Tibetan Gazelle	<i>Procapra picticaudata</i>										✓	✓			
22	Takin	<i>Budorcas taxicolor</i>											✓	✓	✓	✓
23	Chinese Serow	<i>Capricornis milneedwardsii</i>													✓	
24	Chinese Goral	<i>Naemorhedus griseus</i>		✓										✓	✓	
25	Blue Sheep	<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>							✓			✓				
	BIRDS	AVES														
1	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
2	Eastern Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas zonorhyncha</i>														✓
3	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>									✓					
4	Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>							✓							
5	Tibetan Partridge	<i>Perdix hodgsoniae</i>										✓				
6	Koklass Pheasant	<i>Pucrasia macrolopha</i>							✓							

7	Chinese Monal	<i>Lophophorus lhuysii</i>					✓										
8	White Eared Pheasant	<i>Crossoptilon crossoptilon</i>					✓										
9	Blue Eared Pheasant	<i>Crossoptilon auritum</i>									✓						
10	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>						✓		✓							
11	Golden Pheasant	<i>Chrysolophus pictus</i>											✓	✓			
12	Lady Amherst's Pheasant	<i>Chrysolophus amherstiae</i>		✓		✓											
13	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>							✓								
14	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>															✓
15	Chinese Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola bacchus</i>															✓
16	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	✓							✓							
17	Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>				✓											
18	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>				✓											✓
19	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>							✓								
20	Bearded Vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>					✓		✓	✓		✓					
21	Himalayan Vulture	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>					✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
22	Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>						✓	✓		✓	✓					
23	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>										✓					
24	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		✓		✓					✓						✓
25	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans lineatus</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
26	Upland Buzzard	<i>Buteo hemilasius</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			

27	Himalayan Buzzard	<i>Buteo burmanicus</i>							✓								
28	Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malaiensis</i>		✓													
29	Black-necked Crane	<i>Grus nigricollis</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
30	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>								✓							
31	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>								✓							
32	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>								✓							
33	Brown-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus</i>								✓	✓	✓	✓				
34	Pallas's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus</i>								✓							
35	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓						✓			✓
36	Snow Pigeon	<i>Columba leuconota</i>					✓							✓			
37	Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>	✓			✓											✓
38	Eurasian Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>									✓			✓			
39	Tawny Fish Owl	<i>Ketupa flavipes</i>														✓	
40	Asian Barred Owlet	<i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i>														✓	
41	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>									✓						
42	Salim Ali's Swift	<i>Apus salimalii</i>														✓	
43	Crested Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle lugubris</i>														✓	✓
44	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓					✓	✓
45	Crimson-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates cathpharius</i>		✓	✓												
46	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>														✓	

47	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>									✓					
48	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓					
49	Saker Falcon	<i>Falco cherrug</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
50	Long-tailed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>		✓	✓										✓	
51	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>				✓										✓
52	Grey-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius tephronotus</i>						✓								
53	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius sinensis</i>		✓										✓		
54	Azure-winged Magpie	<i>Cyanopica cyanus</i>						✓								
55	Red-billed Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa erythroryncha</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					✓	✓	✓	
56	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>						✓				✓	✓	✓		✓
57	Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>		✓	✓	✓										
58	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
59	Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>					✓									
60	Daurian Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus dauuricus</i>								✓						
61	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone orientalis</i>		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓				
62	Collared Crow	<i>Corvus torquatus</i>											✓			✓
63	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>		✓			✓							✓	✓	
64	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
65	Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>												✓		
66	Ground Tit	<i>Pseudopodoces humilis</i>							✓	✓		✓				

67	Yellow-browed Tit	<i>Sylviparus modestus</i>		✓	✓	✓										
68	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>		✓			✓									✓
69	Yellow-bellied Tit	<i>Pardaliparus venustulus</i>												✓	✓	
70	Grey Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes dichrous</i>			✓											
71	White-browed Tit	<i>Poecile superciliosus</i>						✓		✓						
72	Pere David's Tit	<i>Poecile davidi</i>			✓											
73	Sichuan Tit	<i>Poecile weigoldicus</i>								✓						
74	Japanese Tit	<i>Parus minor</i>						✓		✓						
75	Green-backed Tit	<i>Parus monticolus</i>		✓	✓			✓						✓	✓	✓
76	Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>							✓		✓					
77	Tibetan Lark	<i>Melanocorypha maxima</i>						✓								
78	Collared Finchbill	<i>Spizixos semitorques</i>				✓							✓	✓		
79	Brown-breasted Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus xanthorrhous</i>											✓	✓	✓	✓
80	Light-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus sinensis</i>	✓			✓										✓
81	Mountain Bulbul	<i>Ixos mccllellandii</i>												✓		
82	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓			✓		✓					✓			✓
83	Asian House Martin	<i>Delichon dasypus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							✓		
84	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	✓													
85	Pygmy Wren-babbler	<i>Pnoepyga pusilla</i>														✓
86	Rufous-faced Warbler	<i>Abroscopus albogularis</i>												✓		

87	Black-throated Bushtit	<i>Aegithalos concinnus</i>															✓
88	Black-browed Bushtit	<i>Aegithalos bonvaloti</i>		✓	✓												
89	Sooty Bushtit	<i>Aegithalos fuliginosus</i>												✓	✓		
90	Alpine Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus occisinensis</i>					✓										
91	Chinese Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus yunnanensis</i>															✓
92	Large-billed Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus magnirostris</i>															✓
93	Claudia's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus claudiae</i>												✓			
94	Kloss's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus ogilviegranti</i>												✓			
95	Sichuan Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus forresti</i>		✓	✓	✓					✓						
96	Martens's Warbler	<i>Seicercus omeiensis</i>												✓	✓		
97	Chestnut-crowned Warbler	<i>Seicercus castaniceps</i>												✓			
98	Brown Bush Warbler	<i>Locustella luteoventris</i>		✓													
99	David's Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe davidi</i>			✓	✓								✓			
100	Snowy-cheeked Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax sukatschewi</i>									✓						
101	Giant Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax maximus</i>					✓				✓						
102	Plain Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax davidi</i>							✓		✓						
103	White-browed Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax sannio</i>				✓											✓
104	Elliot's Laughingthrush	<i>Trochalopteron elliotii</i>			✓			✓			✓						✓
105	Red-billed Leiothrix	<i>Leiothrix lutea</i>												✓			
106	Golden-breasted Fulvetta	<i>Lioparus chrysotis</i>		✓	✓												

107	Fulvous Parrotbill	<i>Suthora fulvifrons</i>			✓											
108	Stripe-throated Yuhina	<i>Yuhina gularis</i>		✓												
109	White-collared Yuhina	<i>Yuhina diademata</i>		✓		✓									✓	
110	Chestnut-vented Nuthatch	<i>Sitta nagaensis</i>			✓											
111	Sichuan Treecreeper	<i>Certhia tianquanensis</i>			✓											
112	Crested Myna	<i>Acridotheres cristatellus</i>	✓			✓										✓
113	Red-billed Starling	<i>Spodiopsar sericeus</i>														✓
114	Grandala	<i>Grandala coelicolor</i>					✓									
115	Chinese Blackbird	<i>Turdus mandarinus</i>	✓													
116	Chestnut Thrush	<i>Turdus rubrocanus</i>		✓			✓				✓		✓			
117	Kessler's Thrush	<i>Turdus kessleri</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓					
118	Red-throated Thrush	<i>Turdus ruficollis</i>			✓					✓						
119	Naumann's Thrush	<i>Turdus naumanni</i>			✓											
120	Indian Blue Robin	<i>Larvivora brunnea</i>													✓	
121	Siberian Rubythroat	<i>Calliope calliope</i>											✓			
122	Blue Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>													✓	
123	Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula strophiatea</i>		✓	✓											
124	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
125	White-throated Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus schisticeps</i>					✓			✓						
126	Daurian Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus aureus</i>		✓	✓											✓

127	Blue-fronted Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus frontalis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓							
128	Plumbeous Water Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus fuliginosus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓
129	White-capped Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus leucocephalus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
130	Siberian Stonechat	<i>Saxicola maurus</i>							✓							
131	Brown Dipper	<i>Cinclus pallasii</i>	✓			✓							✓	✓	✓	
132	Mrs. Gould's Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga gouldiae</i>		✓										✓		
133	Russet Sparrow	<i>Passer cinnamomeus</i>				✓							✓			
134	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓
135	White-rumped Snowfinch	<i>Onychostruthus taczanowskii</i>								✓		✓	✓			
136	Rufous-necked Snowfinch	<i>Pyrgilauda ruficollis</i>							✓			✓				
137	Robin Accentor	<i>Prunella rubeculoides</i>								✓		✓				
138	Rufous-breasted Accentor	<i>Prunella strophciata</i>										✓				
139	Forest Wagtail	<i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>	✓													
140	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola calcarata</i>							✓							
141	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>				✓									✓	
142	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
143	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>										✓				
144	Rosy Pipit	<i>Anthus roseatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓				
145	Dark-breasted Rosefinch	<i>Procarduelis nipalensis</i>				✓										
146	Plain Mountain Finch	<i>Leucosticte nemoricola</i>								✓		✓	✓			

147	Streaked Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus rubicilloides</i>										✓				
148	Pink-rumped Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus waltoni</i>								✓						
149	Chinese White-browed Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus dubius</i>			✓						✓					
150	Twite	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>								✓	✓	✓				
151	Godlewski's Bunting	<i>Emberiza godlewskii</i>						✓			✓					
152	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>				✓✓								✓		
	REPTILES	REPTILIA														
1	Mandarin Rat Snake	<i>Euprepiophis mandarinus</i>												✓		