



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Trip Report
China – Sichuan
9th to 27th May 2016 (19 days)
& Yunnan Extension
2nd to 9th May 2016 (8 days)



The spectacular male Grandala by Dennis Braddy

Trip report compiled by tour leaders: Glen Valentine & David Hoddinott

Top 10 Birds for the Yunnan & Sichuan trip as voted by tour participants:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Golden Pheasant | 6. Crested Tit-Warbler |
| 2. Przevalski's Finch (Pinktail) | 7. Blue Eared Pheasant |
| 3. Grandala | 8. Tawny Fish Owl |
| 4. Black-necked Crane | 9. Snow Partridge |
| 5. Red-tailed Laughingthrush | 10. Solitary Snipe |

Other species that received several votes and fell just short of the top 10: Verreaux's Monal-Partridge, White Eared Pheasant, Tibetan Partridge, Chinese Monal, Siberian Rubythroat & Three-toed Parrotbill.

Top 5 mammals for the Yunnan & Sichuan trip as voted by tour participants:

1. Golden Takin
2. Tibetan Fox
3. Grey Wolf
4. Chinese Goral
5. Blue Sheep (Bharal)



Balangshan Mountain Scenery by Dennis Braddy

Tour Summary:



Dancing Black-necked Cranes on the Tibetan Plateau by Glen Valentine

China has firmly placed itself on the birding map as one of Asia's top destinations - and rightly so! Very few countries boast a bird list of over 1000 species and China is sitting on over 1300 and counting. Within this vast and bird-rich country, the provinces of Yunnan and Sichuan are unrivalled in terms of species numbers and the quality of birds that they harbour. We were fortunate to enjoy a month in these wonderful birding regions and the list of specialties and highly sought-after species seen during our time there was truly spectacular. Of the numerous birding highlights and 406 species recorded, the following were just some of the most memorable and desirable species seen: Tibetan and Snow Partridges; Tibetan Snowcock; Verreaux's Monal-Partridge; the spectacular Temminck's Tragopan; Chinese Monal; White Eared, Blue Eared, Blood, Golden and Lady Amherst's Pheasants; dancing Black-necked Cranes; the rarely seen Solitary Snipe; sky-pointing Eurasian Bittern; the magnificent Tawny Fish Owl; Darjeeling and Black Woodpeckers; Swinhoe's Minivet; Chinese Grey Shrike; White-browed and Pere David's Tits; Crested and White-browed Tit-Warblers; Black-streaked Scimitar Babbler; Rusty-capped, Yellow-throated, Spectacled, Chinese and Golden-breasted Fulvettas;

Chinese Babax; Giant, Spotted, Red-winged, Red-tailed and Snowy-cheeked Laughingthrushes; Beautiful Sibia; the rare and endemic Rufous-tailed Babbler (Moupinia); an incredible 7 species of parrotbill; Giant, Yunnan, Przevalski's and Chinese Nuthatches; the recently described Sichuan Treecreeper; the nomadic and almost impossibly brilliant Grandala; the localized and elusive Black-breasted Thrush; Maroon-backed Accentor; the monotypic Przevalski's Finch and Slaty Bunting, as well as several snowfinches and an amazing selection of rosefinches and warblers. Not to mention some awesome mammals too such as: Grey Wolf; Golden Takin; Blue Sheep; Chinese Goral; Tibetan Fox, and a range of squirrels and pikas. Phew, what a list of megas! One can easily see why China and especially Sichuan ranks right up there with some of the most famous and bird-rich regions of the world!

Our epic adventure around central and southern China began in early May, perfectly timed around the onset of spring. On a warm and clear morning we boarded our flight from Chengdu down to Kunming, Yunnan's capital city, to begin our Yunnan pre-tour extension. Upon arrival we met up with our local guide, Mr. Zhang, who would accompany us around this seldom visited part of China for the next week. Leaving Kunming we were soon heading south along the motorway to the conifer-dominated hill forest of Zixishan Nature Reserve. After our first of many delicious Chinese lunches in a nearby town we began winding our way up to our guest house, situated right in this scenic reserve, and our base for the next night. Almost immediately after checking in we were distracted by a pair of Black-headed Greenfinch that were hanging around the edge of the accommodation. Our first of many Black-headed Sibia was also noted here and after an exciting start we made our way to an area of tall pine trees where we quickly managed to find both Giant Nuthatch and the incredibly localized Yunnan Nuthatch, as well as a Great Spotted Woodpecker, Brown-breasted Bulbuls, the more widespread Chestnut-vented Nuthatch and

Russet Sparrow. In the late afternoon we ventured to the top of the mountain for further exploration of the area, which yielded a fine Godlewski's Bunting and a very brief Chinese Thrush. Unfortunately our late afternoon attempt at trying to find the rare and elusive Mrs. Hume's Pheasant at the edge of the roads proved fruitless, and we returned to the guest house for a tasty dinner and well-deserved sleep.

Our full morning around the reserve proved most productive, and enjoyable, and after an initial early drive in search of pheasants we soon opted for some general birding with a wonderful mixed flock, producing: a pair of Long-tailed Minivet; Green-backed Tit; both Black-throated and Black-browed Bushtits, and better views of Black-headed Sibia. A little further up a side track we encountered the scarce, unobtrusive and range-restricted Rusty-capped Fulvetta, as well as a flock of Yunnan Fulvetta, a few Blue-winged Minla and a Grey-crowned Warbler in full song. After a great start, and in good spirits, we drove a little further down the road, managing to scope a singing male Blyth's Shrike-Babbler. Our next

scheduled stop at the reserve entrance also produced some great birds and gave us: Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher; a highly responsive Rufous-capped Babbler; a female Vivid Niltava; more Rusty-capped Fulvetta, and the best of all a splendid, and unbelievably showy, male White-tailed Robin. Other noteworthy species encountered during our morning's outing included: Eurasian Jay; Long-tailed Shrike; Mountain and Black Bulbuls; Ashy-throated Warbler; more Giant Nuthatches and Black-headed Greenfinches; a wonderful Chinese Thrush sitting at the top of a tall pine tree singing its heart out; a Brown-breasted Flycatcher; a gorgeous male Chinese Blue Flycatcher; the common but superb Verditer Flycatcher, and several Mrs. Gould's Sunbirds.

After an excellent morning we departed Zixishan and made our way further west towards the interesting town of Dali - situated at the base of the impressive Cangshan Mountains. This was our destination for the late afternoon and as we began the drive up the mountain we came across our first of several Cook's



The range-restricted & generally rare Giant Nuthatch at Zixishan by Tom Heatley



Godlewski's Bunting at Zixishan by Glen Valentine

Swifts on the extension. Also with them were Asian House Martin and House Swift. We continued up, scanning the road edges very carefully for our main quarry - the spectacular Lady Amherst's Pheasant. A stop for some passerines flitting about in the road yielded: a gorgeous, but shy, male Rufous-bellied Niltava; as well as Yellow-throated Bunting, and White-browed Fulvetta. A short stop and leg stretch at the top before our journey back down gave us a rather hyper-active pair of Streak-breasted Scimitar Babblers that finally showed very well in the dwindling evening light. Also on show here were a few White-collared Yuhina, another eye-catching species that proved to be rather common and showy later in the trip. Elliott's Laughingthrush, an abundant bird in Sichuan,

called a few times and showed ever so briefly for a lucky few. The light was now fading rather quickly and it was fast becoming the perfect time for pheasants, so we scrapped the general birding and concentrated on Lady Amherst. Before long a female Lady Amherst was seen bolting across the road in front of our bus - Exciting stuff! A little further on a pair of these unbelievable pheasants were spotted at the road edge, but they only showed for a few seconds before walking off into the dense montane forest undergrowth. Finally, to end off an amazing afternoon with these beauties, another male was sighted walking right down the middle of the road and then rounding a corner before disappearing - Wow, what a bird! To end off a superb day we ground to a halt due to a pair of Black-streaked Scimitar Babblers that crossed the road and then clambered up into the pine trees, calling incessantly as they moved - Awesome! We arrived at our very comfortable, and well-appointed, hotel in old Dali rather late, but with an amazing suite of great birds under the belt and after checking in, we made our way into town for a delicious and festive dinner.



The rare and beautiful Black-breasted Thrush at Gaoligongshan by David Hoddinott

Our next morning had us driving back up Cangshan for further views of Lady Amherst's Pheasant, and a slim chance of the elusive Mrs. Hume's variety. We scored again with another female Lady Amherst that was admired at length on the roadside, with many males heard calling from the surrounding forest undergrowth during the morning. After a picnic breakfast at the top, and some pleasant interruptions in the form of: a gorgeous male Collared Grosbeak; singing Aberrant and Russet Bush Warblers; more Black-headed Greenfinches, and several, rather flighty, Mrs. Gould's Sunbirds, we took a short walk along the track that skirts the upper slope of the mountain and found some more great birds. These included: a few singing Bianchi's Warblers; wonderful, close and prolonged views of the scarce and endemic Rufous-tailed Babbler; several Japanese White-eyes; Common Rosefinches, and a Rufous-breasted Accentor. Lower down the mountain we scored with: more Rusty-capped and Yunnan Fulvetas; as well as a singing male Slaty-backed Flycatcher, and a single Spectacled Fulvetta that showed well,



The scarce, unique & endemic Rufous-tailed Babbler (Moupinia) by Glen Valentine

but briefly, in the forest understory. We departed Cangshan in the late morning and enjoyed another tasty lunch in town before embarking on the long drive south and slightly west towards the Gaoligongshan Mountains near the Burmese border in south-western Yunnan. This prolific birding area would be our base for the next three nights and our time here gave us so many amazing birds! The afternoon's drive was rather uneventful except for an unplanned stop in the lowlands near our guest house where we were delighted to find several typical lowland Asian species like: Green and Blue-tailed Bee-eaters; Red-whiskered and Sooty-headed Bulbuls; Pale Martin; Striated Prinia; Oriental White-eye, and nesting Scaly-breasted Munia.

Early the next morning we were out and up into the forest that cloaks the foothills of the Gaoligong mountain range. Birding the secondary forest at the edge of the reserve proved extremely productive and here we soon got to grips with an array of the area's fantastic birds. Impressive Black Eagle and Crested Goshawk flew overhead, while Pin-tailed and Wedge-tailed Green Pigeons occupied the canopy.

An extremely "square-tailed" Fork-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo uttered a few notes and was easily located perched up in some bare branches, while Common Cuckoos were also heard throughout the area and seen on a few occasions. The gaudy and vociferous Blue-throated Barbet was also enjoyed, as were: Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker; Black-winged Cuckooshrike; the spectacular Scarlet Minivet; Black-headed Sibia; Whiskered Yuhina; Ferruginous Flycatcher, and a few zippy Streaked Spiderhunters. By mid-morning we reached the primary forest a little higher up and here we added: Golden-throated Barbet; a flock of Rusty-fronted Barwing; a rather brief Greater Yellowthroat and Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo; a fabulous pair of Short-billed Minivet; White-bellied Erpornis; White-throated Fantail; Yellow-cheeked Tit, and the vivid blue Large Niltava. After lunch, and a short break back at the guest house, we returned to the forest-edge and were delighted to encounter a good number of great, new birds with highlights including: Crested Finchbill; Striated and Flavescent Bulbuls; a rather uncooperative Pale-footed Bush Warbler; the boldly-patterned Davison's Leaf Warbler; several attractive and unusually showy and confiding Scarlet-faced Liocichla and Hill Prinia; the gorgeous Silver-eared Mesia; the subtly-plumaged Dark-sided Flycatcher; Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush; a surprise flock of Scarlet Finch, and the absolute cherry on top, a fabulous pair of Red-tailed Laughingthrush that showed incredibly well and even posed for photographic opportunities - Stupendous! To then round off another great day's birding we encountered a handsome adult Speckled Wood Pigeon perched up in the tall canopy at the forest edge that afforded us good scope views.



The usually shy and rarely seen Red-tailed Laughingthrush at Gaoligongshan by David Hoddinott



The handsome Rusty-fronted Barwing at Gaoligongshan by Dennis Braddy

Our next full day at Gaoligong saw us heading up into the primary forest at dawn to maximize our chances of some rarer species in this beautiful habitat. The birding was, however, fairly quiet for the most part despite such stunning habitat, but we still managed to pick up a number of great birds. Several skulkers revealed their presence with their distinctive calls and included Grey-bellied Tesia and Pygmy Wren-Babbler, both of which ended up showing remarkably well. A few Yellow-throated Fulvetta also whizzed around us in the dense undergrowth and we also managed to track down: several Beautiful Sibia; a pair of brightly-coloured Chestnut-crowned Warblers; Bar-throated and Red-tailed Minla;

a surprise flock of the rare and elusive Grey-headed Parrotbill; a pair of Snowy-browed Flycatcher, and a ridiculously confiding Blyth's Shrike-babbler that hung around at touching distance for several minutes. The secondary forest yielded much of the same species as the previous day, as well as: more Red-tailed Laughingthrushes; a male Little Pied Flycatcher; a very handsome male Black-breasted Thrush, and in the late afternoon, a larger flock of Speckled Wood Pigeon.

Mammals seen in the Gaoligong area included Pallas's Squirrel and the very impressive Black Giant Squirrel. It was, however, time to move on to our next destination - the town of Lijiang - situated at the base of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountains in north-western Yunnan, and our final locality of the Yunnan Extension. The drive was a long one and took us most of the day, but we did make a few unexpected birding stops with one such stop in the early morning producing a fine selection of new birds that included: the striking black-and-chestnut Crested Bunting (the reason for stopping in the first place); a male Rosy Minivet; Grey-breasted Prinia, and White-throated Kingfisher. Several Richard's Pipits, an Indian Roller and small numbers of Crested Myna were also encountered along the drive before reaching Lijiang in the late afternoon. After quickly checking into our comfortable hotel, we paid a short visit to some scrubby habitat at the edge of a nearby wetland. This area was teeming with birds and we were delighted to find: a few Black-faced Buntings; an Eastern Yellow Wagtail; several immaculate breeding plumage Citrine Wagtails; a few Little Ringed Plovers; Common Snipe; Wood Sandpiper; Rosy Pipit, and a surprise group of four Grey-headed Lapwing.



The striking White-collared Yuhina by Glen Valentine

Our full day in the Lijiang area had us driving up early into the foothills of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountains in search of a few rare species, several of which we managed to find during our morning excursion. We'd hoped for more male Lady Amherst's Pheasants, but unfortunately didn't find any and after a picnic breakfast and a couple of transient Eyebrowed Thrushes we began birding along the road back towards town. A few small mixed flocks popped up here and there and these harboured: Black-browed and Black-throated Bushtits; a pair of Streak-breasted Scimitar Buntings; Japanese White-eye, and a singleton of the extremely localized and recently split Black-bibbed Tit, but unfortunately the rare, localized and declining White-speckled Laughingthrush evaded us. In some drier, secondary scrub lower down we enjoyed good views of a flock of Chinese Babax - that turned out to be a lovely bonus. Our afternoon



This particular Blyth's Shrike-Babbler photographed by Dennis Braddy was especially showy at Gaoligongshan

exploration of a nearby wetland turned up a few species of waterfowl with the best being Eurasian Wigeon and Ferruginous Duck; while Oriental Reed, Dusky Warblers, Taiga Flycatcher, migrating Blyth's Pipit and our first of many Alpine Leaf Warblers flitted about the surrounding reeds, bushes and fields.

Alas, our time in Yunnan had come to an end and it was time to fly back to Chengdu and begin our exciting birding adventure around Sichuan. After our arrival in Chengdu we met with our delightful local guides - Parus and Bella - who would accompany us around Sichuan for the next nineteen days. We soon struck out for the nearby Chengdu Botanical Gardens, where we enjoyed a rewarding afternoon's birding and relaxing stroll around the bird-rich and well maintained gardens. One of the first birds we found was a Vinous-throated Parrotbill that put on a good performance - we ended up seeing many of these tiny parrotbills during the course of the afternoon. Also in abundance were Chinese Blackbird and White-browed Laughingthrush and we also managed to obtain good views of: Speckled Piculet; Chinese Grosbeak; Japanese Tit; Collared Finchbill; Light-vented Bulbul, and Grey-capped Greenfinch. A real surprise came at the end of the day when a male Amur Paradise Flycatcher appeared briefly on a few occasions before flitting off deeper into the surrounding thickets and woodland. After a great afternoon's birding we returned to our very comfortable hotel in town for another sumptuous dinner, cold beer and a good night's rest.



White-browed Laughingthrush in the Chengdu Botanical Gardens by Dennis Braddy

Our Sichuan birding tour began in earnest with a drive down south towards Mt. Emei and the forest reserve of Longcanggou - which lies on the other side of the same mountains as the famous birding site of Wawushan, which is, unfortunately, currently closed to tourists. We arrived at our rather quaint guest



Chinese Grosbeak in the Chengdu Botanical Gardens by Glen Valentine

house near the edge of Longcanggou Forest Reserve in time for lunch and spent the remainder of the afternoon birding along a road through some lovely, mature forest at the edge of the park entrance. Black-naped Oriole was found at the edge of our accommodation and specialties seen this afternoon included: Ashy-throated Parrotbill; the gorgeous Red-billed Leiothrix; Bay Woodpecker; Large-billed, Claudia's, Kloss's and Sichuan Leaf Warblers; Martens's and Chestnut-crowned Warblers; Rufous-capped Babbler; a stunning male Chinese Blue Flycatcher; Brown Dipper, and the ubiquitous, and attractive, Plumbeous Water Redstart. A Red-winged Laughingthrush called tantalizingly close, but refused to reveal itself - sightings of this mega would have to wait until tomorrow.

Our next two full days in the lush, moss-draped, broad-leaved and coniferous forests of Longcanggou produced some of the trip's best birds and we were delighted with our encounters - especially considering the foul weather that had rolled in on our second day in the area.

Our early mornings in the higher-lying forest, dominated by bamboo and conifers, turned up highlights such as: Great, Brown and Three-toed Parrotbills; several extremely vocal Himalayan Cuckoos; the fast-flying White-throated Needletail; Himalayan Swiftlet; Crimson-breasted and Darjeeling Woodpeckers; Long-tailed Minivet; Yellow-browed, Coal and Pere David's Tits; Brown-flanked, Yellow-bellied, Aberrant and Brown Bush Warblers; Buff-throated and Bianchi's Warblers; Elliott's and Red-winged Laughingthrushes; superb Golden-breasted and Grey-hooded Fulvettas; White-collared Yuhina; Eurasian Wren; a very brief and shy Emei Shan Liocichla; nesting Hodgson's Treecreeper; singing White-bellied Redstart and White-browed Bush Robin; the exquisite Mrs. Gould's Sunbird, and Vinaceous Rosefinch. The primary and secondary forest lower down the mountain gave us: a female Lady Amherst's Pheasant feeding in the road; as well as the impressive Red-billed Blue Magpie; Sichuan Bush Warbler; Alstrom's Warbler; Brown Bullfinch; Red-billed Starling; Yellow-throated Bunting, and more Ashy-throated Parrotbills.



The exquisite & fast-moving Golden-breasted Fulvetta at Longcanggou by Glen Valentine

After our time at Longcanggou we embarked on the long drive to Wolong - having to drive an extra five hours due to three of the five possible routes up into the Balangshan Mountains being impassable. The drive was, however, extremely interesting and scenic and we ended up over-nighting near Luding - with the only notable bird seen along the way being a nesting Hill Pigeon on a cliff-face. After an early departure the next morning we made the small town of Rilong for a late breakfast before climbing up towards the towering, 4500m (14700ft) high Balangshan Pass. A flock of Salim Ali's Swift just before

town was a lovely surprise and birding stops along the drive up the pass were extremely productive with every stop producing at least one top-quality new bird. The brilliant little White-browed Tit-Warbler hopped around in the dense, scrubby thickets along with: Pink-rumped, Himalayan Beautiful, Chinese White-browed and Streaked Rosefinches; Alpine Leaf Warbler and Sichuan Tit; Snow Pigeons fed in small groups in open, muddy areas with Brandt's and Plain Mountain Finches. Several stunning male White-tailed Rubythroat were admired as they



The rare and endemic Three-toed Parrotbill at Longcanggou by Dennis Braddy

sang from the tops of exposed bushes along with Rufous-breasted Accentor and Rosy Pipit.

On the mammal front we encountered several very endearing Himalayan Marmots scurrying over the grassy slopes. As we descended the pass on the Wolong side we encountered a very handsome Snow Partridge standing on a bank right at the edge of the road. We ground to a halt and jumped out, and quite amazingly the bird did not budge. Crippling views of this highly sought-after species ensued and eventually after several minutes of point-blank views it decided to make its way a little further up the grassy slope - Tremendous! A little further on we arrived at our road-side lunch stop where some of us were greeted by a male Temminck's Tragopan that jumped out from the forest onto the road and made a dash across and up the slope on the other side, showing its immensely bright colours for a few seconds to a lucky few. Himalayan Vultures soared overhead, while a short birding stop in a narrow valley a little lower down produced another huge surprise for this area in the form of a female Swinhoe's Minivet that was watched feeding low down amongst some small bushes and even on the ground, along with fair numbers of: Slaty-backed and Rufous-gorgeted Flycatchers; Blue-fronted Redstart; Himalayan Bluetail, and Chestnut Thrush.



The immaculate White-browed Tit-Warbler on Balangshan Pass by Glen Valentine

Our next full day up into the Balangshan Mountains was superb! The morning started out overcast and very cold but the weather soon improved. A massive system had moved in during the night and brought about three feet of snow, but after scope views of Chinese Monal, Kessler's Thrush and White Eared Pheasant our spirits lifted. After a field breakfast in the light snow we continued down the road and admired the beauty of a soaring Golden Eagle, as well as several Bearded Vultures. The general birding here was, however, very slow due to the dense layer of fresh snow that blanketed the ground, bushes and trees, so we decided to drop down to the edge of the snow-line. This proved to be the perfect decision, because just before we were about to pull over and continue birding we suddenly found ourselves

surrounded by a massive flock of male and female Grandala! These brilliant birds had obviously been forced lower down due to the inclement weather and we were absolutely blown away by the sheer number of these beauties, as well as how tame they were. We spent a good deal of time savouring the views of these indescribably beautiful, and bright, blue birds and even after walking away from them we were followed down the road by a flock of around a dozen birds for the next hour - Absolutely amazing! Other great birds seen after the Grandala explosion



The habitat of Snow Partridge & Tibetan Snowcock: Balangshan Pass Scenery by Glen Valentine

included a vocal and cooperative Giant Laughingthrush and many of the same species as yesterday.

In the afternoon we journeyed back up Balangshan Pass in search of a few high altitude goodies that we were still missing and came up trumps with a group of Alpine Chough that was followed by a very showy Plain-backed Thrush (soon to be split as Sichuan Thrush) that fed in the open, in an area of snow-covered grass and rocky scree at the edge of an alpine stream. A pair of Red-fronted Rosefinch was later scoped higher up the pass along with Alpine Accentor and a herd of twenty-three Blue Sheep (Bharal). We also found another three Snow Partridge, as well as more mountain finches and choughs but unfortunately only heard Tibetan Snowcock - this species would just have to wait for tomorrow.



**The impressive Giant Laughingthrush in the Wolong area
by Glen Valentine**

The next morning we awoke to the most splendid, clear and starry skies and departed our base at Wolong for the lower reaches of the Balangshan Pass where we focused our search on the last remaining species in this beautiful and immensely scenic area. Almost the first bird that we saw, just after it had become light and while we were eating our field breakfast, was a handsome male Chinese Monal that paraded up and down the grassy slope in front of us for unbeatable scope views in the sensational early morning light. This was followed by twelve White Eared Pheasants, a pair of Tibetan Snowcock and a male Blood Pheasant - Wow, what a start to the day! The bushy habitat a little further down the road yielded Dark-breasted and Common Rosefinches as well as our only Wallcreeper of the trip. In the late morning we crossed back over Balangshan Pass and down to Rilong and finally made our way through some annoying roadworks by the early afternoon for a rather late lunch in town. The afternoon was mostly spent driving out west towards the Tibetan town of Maerkang, crossing over the high pass of Mengbishan at 4000m (13000ft) in the late afternoon.

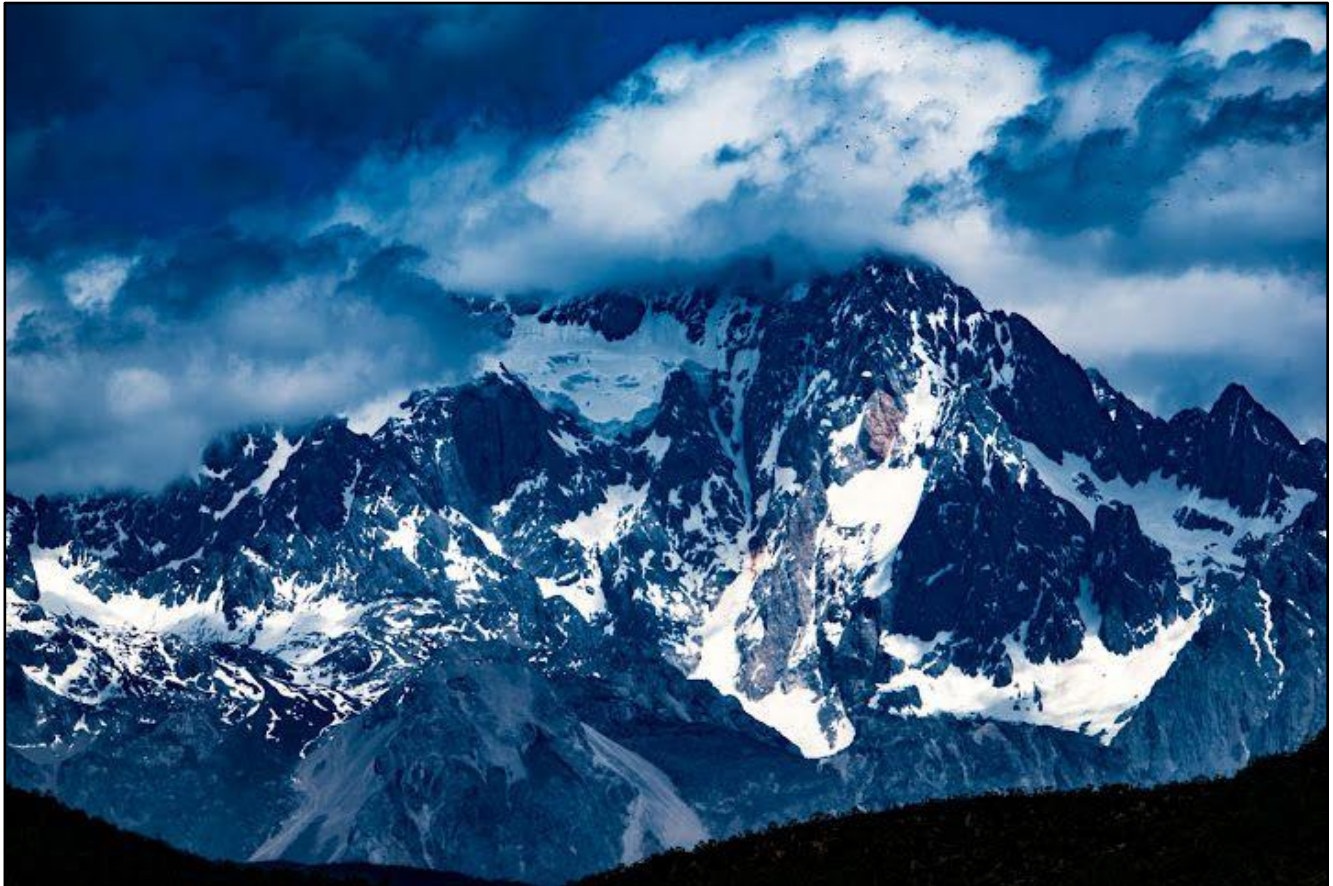
We had a spectacular full day's birding on Mengbishan the following day with the early morning starting



Balangshan Mountain Scenery by Glen Valentine

off with several cooperative family groups and pairs of Blood Pheasant. A singing Long-tailed Thrush was superbly spotted atop a tall conifer at the top of a ridge by Alasdair, and showed quite well in the scopes. We started our day near the top of the pass and continued slowly downhill for several kilometres - repeating the same formula in the afternoon. The climate was lovely and the birding was very good at times, some of the star birds that we encountered today were: the often-elusive

Verreaux's Monal-Partridge; another twenty-three White Eared Pheasants; good numbers of the common but very attractive White-throated Redstart; the magnificent Himalayan and Bearded Vultures; Golden Eagle; Eurasian Sparrowhawk; a brief Sichuan Jay for Dennis; Grey-crested and Rufous-vented Tits; the cracking little Crested Tit-Warbler (an amazing total of five birds with three separate sightings!); a pair of Chinese Fulvetta; several Goldcrest; the attractive endemic and often-elusive Przevalski's Nuthatch; loads of Kessler's and Chestnut Thrushes; perched and singing Maroon-backed Accentor; Collared and White-winged Grosbeaks, and the scarce and beautiful Three-banded Rosefinch. We also found several, very cute, Large-eared Pikas and another Himalayan Marmot while birding down the mountain.



Sichuan Mountain Scenery by Dennis Braddy

Leaving behind our rather luxurious hotel in Maerkang, we struck out for the Tibetan Plateau. We arrived at a tiny village near the edge of the plateau in the early morning and popped into a local restaurant at the edge of the main road through town to enjoy what was rated by most as the best breakfast of the trip! Here we enjoyed some local noodles, Chinese dumplings and Chinese steamed buns filled with some very tasty meat and served with a delicious, spicy side sauce - Yum! It was then just a short drive from our breakfast stop to the plateau and our first scheduled birding stop was a productive one that gave us: a family group of Plain Laughingthrush; Godlewski's Bunting; another pair of White-browed Tit-Warbler, and the most wonderful bonus surprise in the form of a Solitary Snipe that was superbly spotted by Parus and fed in the open for ages, affording us extended views of this mega. A singing White-browed Tit toyed with us but would not show itself. This did not concern us too much as we knew we had lots of other good sites for this species - and we were already on an all-time high from all the other great birds seen this morning. As we continued across the scenic, but rather desolate, plateau we found: our first of several Upland Buzzards; a Little Owl perched atop a fence surrounding a Tibetan homestead; Azure-

winged and Eurasian Magpies; Daurian Jackdaw; Northern Raven; Oriental Skylark; the strikingly plumaged Horned Lark; the miniscule Twite; our first of a total of twenty-seven stately Black-necked Cranes for the day (several of which were watched dancing and calling in the crisp morning air. This handsome species also turned out to be Tom's 6000th bird – well done Tom!), and our only Tibetan Roe Deer of the trip. The many small waterbodies alongside the road yielded widespread waterfowl such as: Ruddy Shelduck; Ferruginous Duck, and Common Merganser, while the highlight of our road-side lunch stop was undoubtedly finding a rather showy and cooperative Tibetan Partridge.



**The eagle-like Upland Buzzard on the Tibetan Plateau by
Glen Valentine**

In the late afternoon we had time for one final stop - this would prove to be our best of the entire day! We pulled over, and with just over an hour to spare, we trundled off into a scrub-filled gully. We'd barely entered the habitat when a pair of White-browed Tit showed themselves and perched up on some low bushes, singing their hearts out for us to admire. Suddenly two small passerines came flying right in towards us and landed a few meters away. What we initially thought had been a pair of tits, came in even closer and proved to be our top-rated bird of the entire trip - The beautiful, unique and monotypic Przevalski's Finch (Pinktail)! The pair showed superbly well for several minutes, flitting from bush to bush, the male with its subtle but oh so

beautiful pink washed tail, face and belly and the female carrying nesting material - What a fantastic bird and birding experience! Unbelievable spotting initially by David, and later by Alasdair, revealed our only Chinese Grey Shrike of the trip. A pair of Tibetan Partridge were also heard and seen briefly here as was another pair of White-browed Tit-Warbler. Our final leg of this epic drive turned up some good mammals in the form of: two separate Grey Wolves; many Plateau Pikas; Himalayan Marmots, and Woolly Hare, as well as our last few good birds in the form of Ground Tit and Rufous-necked Snowfinch. The celebrations in the field and later this evening were contagious as many a milestone had been reached with some seriously classy birds! The big 6000 for Tom, the 15th and final crane (Black-necked) for Tony and Dale, as well as the final and 234th (according to Clements) bird family (Przevalski's Finch (Pinktail)) for Tony, Dale and Tom! What great achievements and milestones all on the same day!

Our full day in the Ruogai area saw us visiting two core birding sites, firstly the nearby Baxi Valley in the early morning where we knocked off some real biggies like Blue Eared Pheasant that was seen standing on a stump in the open, immediately upon arrival! Other notable finds included: a wonderfully showy Snowy-cheeked Laughingthrush; more Plain, Elliott's and Giant Laughingthrushes; the spectacular and endemic Sichuan race of Common Pheasant; a pair of Siberian Rubythroat; a gorgeous male Hodgson's Redstart; Grey-headed Bullfinch; Himalayan Beautiful and Chinese White-browed Rosefinches, and a magnificent male Black Woodpecker. One of the highlights of the morning was finding a carcass that was surrounded by vultures containing two species: the huge Himalayan Vulture and slightly smaller, but still mightily impressive and much scarcer, Cinereous Vulture of which we were delighted to see four individuals.



The monotypic and endemic Przevalski's Finch (Pinktail) on the Tibetan Plateau by Tom Heatley

Secondly we paid an afternoon visit to a well-appointed and wonderfully productive wetland reserve known as Flower Lake that lies just north of Ruoergai. The wetland and environs absolutely teemed with birds and we encountered a large number of expected species as well as a good suite of notable surprises! Greylag Geese; Red-crested Pochards; Common Terns, and Brown-headed Gulls were abundant and we also found smaller numbers of: Gadwall; Northern Shoveler; Ferruginous and Tufted Ducks; Eurasian Teal; Common Pochard; Pallas's Gull, and Whiskered Tern. Chinese Pond Herons sporting their immaculate full breeding plumage fed around the flooded, grassy edge along with the brilliant, black-backed race of Citrine Wagtail, two separate Brown-cheeked Rails (a major surprise!) and several transient waders, all showing off their superb breeding nuptials: Pacific Golden Plover; Common Redshank; Curlew Sandpiper, and Dunlin. Other highlights included: a very confiding Pale Martin that refused to budge from the path; two Whooper Swans in the distance, and several sky-pointing Eurasian Bitterns that were scoped at length - Fantastic! The surrounding grassland harboured White-rumped and Rufous-necked Snowfinches and displaying Tibetan Lark. We also encountered a female Hen Harrier quartering low over the marsh.

After a very productive and enjoyable time on the Tibetan Plateau it was time to make tracks for the lower lying forests, streams and lakes of Jiuzhai Valley National Park - an incredibly scenic reserve situated just off the edge of the plateau in northern Sichuan and still within "Tibet". Our journey took us via the Baxi Valley, where we spent our final morning but did not pick up anything ultra-special that we had not already been seen on our prior visit there. We then crossed over the plateau and wound our way down the Gong Gang Ling Pass to the town of Jiuzhaigou where we spent the next three nights at our very pleasant and rather grand hotel. From this wonderful base we made day excursions into the national park, utilizing the park's very efficient but busy public transport system to get around between the various scenic and birding sites situated within the two valleys that make up the main parts of the reserve. We visited several areas in both the Arrow Bamboo and the Long Lake Valleys searching for the many specialties for which the reserve is famous. Birding at Jiuzhaigou is rather a case of quality over quantity and can be tough at times, especially with inclement weather, which we unfortunately experienced on both days. Although we did not see a huge number of species during our two days in the reserve we did find some real top quality ones and highlights in the higher-lying coniferous and bamboo dominated forest included: the scarce and



The elusive and rarely seen Solitary Snipe on the Tibetan Plateau by Dennis Braddy



**White-throated Dipper at Jiuzhai Valley National Park by
Dennis Braddy**

recently described Sichuan Treecreeper; the localized Chinese Nuthatch; superb Pere David's Tit; Chinese Leaf Warbler; an unusually obtrusive Spotted Bush Warbler; the handsome White-throated Dipper; Grey-headed Bullfinch; Vinaceous Rosefinch; Tibetan Serin; some very tame Elliott's Laughingthrushes, and several beautiful singing Indian Blue Robins. In the lower lying forest and reedbeds, several small groups of: Spectacled Parrotbill; the endemic *sinensis* race of Eurasian Nuthatch; Sooty Bushtit; Yellow-bellied Tit; Collared and White-winged Grosbeaks, and Brown Dipper entertained us. We did also encounter a reasonable number of widespread, but no less attractive, and enjoyable species during our time in the park. Highlights included: Crimson-

breasted and Great Spotted Woodpeckers; Grey-crested, Japanese and Green-backed Tits; Brown Shrike; the gorgeous Long-tailed Minivet; Eurasian Jay; magnificent Red-billed Blue Magpie; Spotted Nutcracker; Carrion Crow; Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher; Ferruginous, Slaty-backed and Slaty-blue Flycatchers; Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush; White-capped and Plumbeous Water Redstarts, and heaps of *phylloscopus* warblers of various species. Unfortunately, we were either unseasonably early or very few if any individuals had returned to the national Park this year, but despite our best efforts at the best sites we did not even hear a squeak out of a single Rufous-headed Robin, never mind lay eyes on this rarity.

Despite some challenging birding, rainy weather and throngs of tourists, we still enjoyed our time in the Jiuzhai Valley, but the moss-draped mountain forests of Tangjiahe beckoned and so it was time to bid farewell to Jiuzhaigou and continue our journey further east towards our final destination of this mammoth birding adventure - Tangjiahe National Nature Reserve. Tangjiahe, like Jiuzhaigou, does not teem with birds, but the quality of species on offer and the staggeringly beautiful and awe-inspiring scenery makes the journey here well worthwhile. Our drive to Tangjiahe took us via the Gong Gang Ling Pass once again and a short, post-breakfast, birding stint down the pass produced some great birds like: Maroon-backed and Rufous-breasted Accentors; several pairs of Crested Tit-Warbler; male and female Three-banded Rosefinch; Hodgson's Treecreeper; Rufous-vented and Grey-crested Tits; Alpine and Sichuan Leaf Warblers; the entertaining Goldcrest; Kessler's and Chestnut Thrushes; a briefly perched Northern Goshawk, and a Blue Eared Pheasant that sat up right on top of the roadside barrier - Amazing!



**The endemic Spectacled Parrotbill at Jiuzhai Valley
National Park by David Hoddinott**



Tibetan (Milne-Edward's) Macaque at Tangjiahe by Dennis Braddy

In the mid-morning we departed Gong Gang Ling and crossed another section of the vast Tibetan Plateau until we finally reached the Big Snowy Mountain Pass at just over 4000m (13000ft). The scenery here was like most of Sichuan, absolutely spectacular, and a short photographic opportunity and leg stretch gave us: more Bearded and Himalayan Vultures; Alpine and Red-billed Choughs, and Rosy Pipits. We continued down the pass and wound our way lower and lower through some beautiful, broad-leaved evergreen forest, past broken down trucks and through several streams that were flowing right over the road to our lunch stop at a quaint little homestead and family-run restaurant. Here we enjoyed a delicious lunch with locally made cherry wine and two great birds: a singing, male Black-faced Bunting and the rare Collared Crow that perched up for scope views - Fantastic! After lunch we continued the long drive to Tangjiahe with a few random comfort and ice-cream stops producing: a singing Rufous-faced Warbler; a pair of Swinhoe's

Minivet; several Grey-backed and Long-tailed Shrikes; Red-rumped Swallows; Daurian Redstarts; Grey Bush Chats, and Chinese Blackbird. We finally arrived at the national nature reserve entrance in the early evening and headed on into the park. Almost immediately after entering the reserve we were greeted by our first Golden Takins and Reeve's Muntjac, two great mammals. It was here that we also found our only Asian Barred Owlet of the trip. This delayed us even further, and after a very long day we rolled into our delightful hotel situated alongside a beautiful, crystal clear river, deep inside the reserve and surrounded on all sides by towering, forest-clad hills, a fitting place to spend the next three nights.

Our first full day saw us birding the lower lying areas along the rivers that meander through this forested reserve, but the birding in general was fairly quiet despite the superb-looking habitat. However, we did still manage to find some good birds. Highlights were: a brief female Golden Pheasant for some of the group; an unexpected Striated Heron; a flock of around ten Speckled Wood Pigeon; a female Asian Koel; a spectacular adult Tawny Fish Owl on the day roost along with a very cute and fluffy juvenile bird perched nearby; three Crested Kingfishers; a pair of Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker; Mountain Bulbul; a very showy Rufous-faced Warbler; Several Kloss's Leaf Warblers; vociferous but rather elusive Alstrom's Warblers; a pair of Chinese Hwamei; a flock of White-throated Laughingthrush; Vinous-throated Parrotbill; Chestnut-flanked White-eye; Rufous-bellied Niltava; Blue Whistling Thrush; Brown Dipper, and Mrs. Gould's Sunbird. On the mammal front we also encountered a troop of large and rather intimidating Tibetan (Milne-Edward's) Macaque and more Reeve's



Maroon-backed Accentor at Gong Gang Ling by Glen Valentine: A fairly easy bird in Sichuan but very difficult throughout the rest of its limited range

Muntjac and Golden Takin.



The magnificent scenery at Tangjiahe National Nature Reserve by Dennis Braddy

Our second full day in Tangjiahe began early in the drizzly weather. After breakfast we began the drive up to the area where we'd seen the female Golden Pheasant the day before. The overcast and rainy weather was actually on our side this time, as soon after starting up the track the shouts of Golden Pheasant bellowed from the bus! There at the edge of the road were two gorgeous, adult male Golden Pheasants in all their glory! We watched them for several minutes and were even able to exit the car and walk closer for amazing photographic opportunities and views. Continuing along the track we soon



Tangjiahe National Nature Reserve remains the only place on Earth where one stands a good chance of seeing the rare Golden Takin in the wild

bumped into another pair of these exquisite pheasants, which again performed amazingly well right in the road in front of us - and for an extended period! With one of the "birds of the trip" in the bag we turned the bus around and drove back down to the head of a trail that climbs up to the top of one of the surrounding hills. The hike itself is not too strenuous but the wet weather made it rather challenging indeed - half of the group decided to call it a morning and head back for hot coffee and lunch about a third of the way up the mountain. The rain did not lighten up and the birding proved seriously challenging but we continued higher and finally caught a break with a male Golden Pheasant that dashed across the path in front of us. A male Slaty Bunting fed silently in the undergrowth next to the path a little further on and soon

thereafter the obvious song of a Baikal Bush Warbler was heard from within a dense patch of low thicket. A short squeeze of the recording and in it came, perching ever so briefly and crossing the patches of bushes before diving into cover. Then came the “bird of the morning” when a male Temminck’s Tragopan was seen slinking off from the trail edge. The bird, quite amazingly, stuck around for some time allowing everyone to get reasonable views of this magnificent and rarely seen pheasant. Another male tragopan was seen briefly soon thereafter, along with a singing Spotted Laughingthrush.

We finally reached the top in the mid-morning with a howling wind and persisting drizzle. We walked the two short trails at the top with the very slim hope of encountering the very rare and ridiculously localized Przevalski’s Parrotbill, but the less-than-ideal weather made our chances almost non-existent. After some nuts (actually edible nuts (Almonds and Peanuts) and not the leaders or the group...although that’s debatable) and Snickers bars we began the hike back down the mountain. A great treat was instore for us though, when we reached the bottom a small, mixed flock yielded a singing Emei Leaf Warbler that performed wonderfully for us and which had previously only been heard earlier in the trip at Longcangou. Cold and wet from the morning’s walk, we enjoyed a cup of hot coffee and tea and a bite to eat before making our way back to the warmth and comfort of our hotel. Those that opted for the late afternoon stroll around the lodge grounds enjoyed good views of Alstrom’s Warbler, a female Blanford’s Rosefinch and Yellow-bellied Tit.



It’s very rare indeed to see the superb Golden Pheasant this well! Taken by David Hoddinott at Tangjiahe



Elliott’s Laughingthrush at Jiuzhai Valley National Park by Dennis Braddy

Alas it was our last morning of the trip and it was time to make our way back to the bustling city of Chengdu, where our wonderful journey would end. We did however have some time for a short bit of birding around the hotel grounds before departing and our exploration of a nearby stream gave us two excellent new birds in the form of Little and White-crowned Forktails. The drive back gave us little else other than: Black-throated Bushtit; Daurian Redstart; White-browed Laughingthrush; Red-billed Starling, and a few Collared Crows.

Thank you to everyone for making this trip such a special, fun and enjoyable one and we hope to see you all soon on yet another Rockjumper birding adventure! Until next time...



Plain (Pere David's) Laughingthrush in the Baxi Valley by Dennis Braddy



The attractive White-throated Redstart in the Baxi Valley by Glen Valentine



The brilliant Crested Tit-Warbler at Mengbishan by David Hoddinott



Flock of Grandala above Wolong by Glen Valentine



The often shy and secretive White-bellied Redstart showed amazingly well in the Baxi Valley: Taken by Dennis Braddy



The lovely Yellow-bellied Tit at Jiuzhaigou by Glen



We were extremely fortunate to have had two separate sightings of Grey Wolf on the Tibetan Plateau. Taken by David Hoddinott



The recently described and endemic Sichuan Treecreeper at Jiuzhaigou by Glen Valentine



The shy and often difficult-to-see Spotted Bush Warbler at Jiuzhaigou by David Hoddinott



The exquisite, black-backed race of Citrine Wagtail may be split in future as “Tibetan Wagtail”. Taken at Flower Lake by Dennis Braddy



Breath-taking scenery at Jiuzhai Valley National Park by Dennis Braddy



Brown-cheeked Rail at Flower Lake by Dennis Braddy.

Photo credits: All photographs were taken by the respective photographers on Rockjumper's May 2016 China – Sichuan & Yunnan tour.

ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS RECORDED - 410 species (396 seen & 14 heard)

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows the IOC List 6.2. Please cite: Gill, F. and M. Wright. 2016. Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press. Names in round brackets represent alternative names for the species. Square brackets are used for names that are given by IOC but omitted by Clements. A notes section is included where the taxonomy differs between IOC and Clements, where a distinctive subspecies exists that may be split in future or where a recent split has occurred.

Key to abbreviations:

(H) = Heard only; NP = National Park; NNR = National Nature Reserve

Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae

- Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*
We had wonderful views of 30 at Flower Lake, Sichuan
- Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*
We had good scope views of a pair at Flower Lake, Sichuan
- Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*
We had great views of up to 30 daily whilst on the Tibetan Plateau, Sichuan
- Gadwall** *Anas strepera*
We had good views of a pair at Flower Lake, Sichuan
- Eurasian Wigeon** *Anas penelope*
Three birds were seen at Lijiang wetland, Yunnan
- Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*
Thirty seen at Lijiang wetland, Yunnan and a dozen at Flower Lake, Sichuan
- Northern (Eurasian) Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*
Three were seen at Flower Lake, Sichuan
- Eurasian (Common/Green-winged) Teal** *Anas crecca*
Two were seen at Flower Lake, Sichuan
NOTE: IOC recognizes two species: Eurasian Teal and Green-winged Teal whereas Clements only accepts one species, Green-winged Teal.
- Red-crested Pochard** *Netta rufina*
About 80 were seen at Flower Lake, Sichuan
- Common Pochard** *Aythya ferina*
Six were seen at Flower Lake, Sichuan
- Ferruginous Duck (Pochard)** *Aythya nyroca*
We had good views of 6 at Lijiang wetland, Yunnan and a further 20 at Flower Lake, Sichuan
- Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*
Two birds were seen at Flower Lake, Sichuan
- Common Merganser (Goosander)** *Mergus merganser*
Seven were seen during the drive from Maerkang to Ruogai, Sichuan.

Pheasants & Allies Phasianidae

- Snow Partridge** *Lerwa lerwa*
We had fabulous views of one right next to the road and several others on Balangshan Pass, Sichuan.
- Verreaux's Monal-Partridge (Chestnut-throated Partridge)** *Tetraophaps obscurus*

Two birds showed fairly well on Mengbishan Pass, Sichuan

Tibetan Snowcock *Tetraogallus tibetanus*

We enjoyed good scope views of a pair on Balangshan Pass, Sichuan

Tibetan Partridge *Perdix hodgsoniae*

One bird showed very well during the drive from Maerkang to Ruogai, Sichuan. Two others showed briefly on the same drive. A stunning species!

Hill Partridge (H) *Arborophila torqueola*

We heard this species calling on both days at Gaoligongshan, Yunnan

Rufous-throated Partridge (H) *Arborophila rufogularis*

We heard this species calling on both days at Gaoligongshan, Yunnan

Chinese Bamboo Partridge (H) *Bambusicola thoracicus*

We heard this species at Longcanggou, Yunnan

Blood Pheasant *Ithaginis cruentus*

A fabulous 7 birds were seen at Mengbishan Pass, Sichuan

Temminck's Tragopan *Tragopan temminckii*

A male was seen briefly at Wolong and later a further two males one of which showed very well at Tangjiahe National Nature Reserve, Sichuan

Koklass Pheasant *Pucrasia macrolopha*

We heard several at Balangshan Pass, Sichuan

Chinese Monal *Lophophorus lhuysii*

A stunning male was seen on consecutive days at Balangshan Pass, Sichuan

White Eared Pheasant *Crossoptilon crossoptilon*

Several birds were seen at Balangshan Pass and an amazing 23 at Mengbishan, Sichuan

Blue Eared Pheasant *Crossoptilon auritum*

A superb four birds were seen in the Baxi Valley and another at Gonggangling Pass, Sichuan

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

We had wonderful views of ten in the Baxi Valley, Sichuan

NOTE: We saw the very striking and endemic Suehschanensis race during the trip.

Golden Pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus*

We had fabulous views of three males and a female at Tangjiahe NNR

Lady Amherst's Pheasant *Chrysolophus amherstiae*

We had good views of several males and females at Cangshan, a further female was seen at Longcanggou, Yunnan

Grebes Podicipedidae

Little Grebe (Dabchick) *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

We had good views of 30 at Lijiang wetland, Yunnan and a further one at Juizhaigou, Sichuan

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

We enjoyed good views of 8 at Flower Lake, Sichuan

Hérons, Bitterns Ardeidae

Eurasian (Great) Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

We had good scope views of two at Flower Lake, Sichuan

Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*

One bird was seen at Lijiang wetland, Yunnan. A leader only sighting

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

15 were seen at Lijiang wetland, Yunnan and a further 40 at Flower Lake, Sichuan

Striated (Green-backed) Heron *Butorides striata*

One seen along a river in Tangjiahe NP, Sichuan.

Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus*

Seen at several localities in Yunnan including at Lijiang wetland and three seen very well at Flower Lake, Sichuan

[Eastern] Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*

Seen at scattered sites throughout

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

One was seen at Flower Lake, Sichuan

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Two were seen at Flower Lake, Sichuan

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

A bird in breeding plumage was seen at Flower Lake, Sichuan

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Two were seen at Lijiang wetland, Yunnan and a further one at Flower Lake, Sichuan

Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae

Black-winged (Black-shouldered) Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

Our first sighting was of one near Dali and another was seen during the drive from Gaoligong to Lijiang, Yunnan

Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier) *Gypaetus barbatus*

We had good sightings of this impressive vulture at Balangshan Pass, Mengbisha Pass and at Flower Lake, Sichuan. A total of 5 birds were seen.

Crested (Oriental) Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

We had good sightings of six during the drive from Chengdu to Longcanggou, Sichuan

Himalayan Vulture (Griffon) *Gyps himalayensis*

We had fabulous views on numerous days in the highlands of Sichuan.

Cinereous (Black) Vulture *Aegypius monachus*

We enjoyed superb views of four in the Baxi Valley, Sichuan

Crested Serpent Eagle (H) *Spilornis cheela*

One was heard calling at Zixishan NR, Yunnan

Mountain Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus nipalensis*

We had great views of a juvenile at Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malaiensis*

We had great views of one soaring along the cliffs at Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

Our first sighting was of one at Balangshan Pass, a further two at Mengbisha and finally superb views of a perched bird in the Baxi Valley, Sichuan.

Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*

One was seen briefly at Gaoligongshan, Yunnan and later we had good views of a perched bird at Longcanggou, Sichuan

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

We had good views of two, one at Mengbisha and another in the Baxi Valley, Sichuan

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

One was seen at Tangjiahe.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

We had good views of one at Flower Lake, Sichuan

Black (Black-eared) Kite *Milvus migrans (lineatus)*

We had small numbers during the drive from Maerkang to Ruorgai and daily sightings in the Baxi Valley, Sichuan

NOTE: The lineatus race of Black Kite that we saw during the trip is often split as Black-eared Kite. Neither IOC nor Clements accept this split as yet.

Upland Buzzard *Buteo hemilasius*

We had wonderful sightings of several with our best views near Flower Lake, Sichuan

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Small numbers were seen daily on the Tibetan Plateau.

NOTE: Eastern and Himalayan Buzzards have been recently split from Common Buzzard. We saw the vulpinus race of Common Buzzard on our tour.

Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae

Brown-cheeked (Water) Rail *Rallus indicus*

We had good views of 3 at Flower Lake, Sichuan

NOTE: Brown-cheeked Rail has been recently split from Water Rail.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

We had good views of 8 at Lijiang wetland, Yunnan

Eurasian (Common) Coot *Fulica atra*

We had good views of 40 at Lijiang wetland, Yunnan and up to 100 at Flower Lake, Sichuan

Cranes Gruidae

Black-necked Crane *Grus nigricollis*

We enjoyed wonderful views of up to 27 daily on the Tibetan Plateau, Sichuan

Plovers Charadriidae

Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus*

We had great views of 4 birds at Lijiang wetland, Yunnan

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

A total of 6 birds was seen at Flower Lake, Sichuan

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

We had good views of 4 birds during the drive from Gaoligong to Lijiang.

Sandpipers and Allies Scolopacidae

Solitary Snipe *Gallinago solitaria*

We had wonderful views of one on the Tibetan Plateau, a very lucky find!

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Two were seen at the Lijiang wetland, Yunnan

Common Redshank *Tringatotanus*

Seen fairly commonly on the Tibetan Plateau. Best views at Flower Lake, Sichuan

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Several birds were seen at Lijiang wetland, Yunnan and several more at Flower Lake, Sichuan

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

Two birds coming into breeding plumage were seen at Flower Lake, Sichuan.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

A stunning bird in near full breeding plumage was seen at Flower Lake, Sichuan

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

A bird sporting its breeding plumage was seen at Flower Lake, Sichuan

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae

Brown-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus*

We had good views of several on the Tibetan Plateau, Sichuan

Black-headed Gull*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

One non-breeding bird was seen at Flower Lake, Sichuan

Pallas's (Great Black-headed) Gull*Larus ichthyaetus*

We had wonderful views of an adult in full breeding plumage and two juveniles at Flower Lake, Sichuan

Mew (Common) Gull*Larus canus*

A nice surprise, we found one at Flower Lake, Sichuan

Common Tern*Sterna hirundo*

Up to 20 birds were seen at Flower Lake, Sichuan

Whiskered Tern*Chlidonias hybrida*

We had great views of four at Flower Lake, Sichuan

Pigeons, Doves Columbidae**Rock Dove (Pigeon)***Columba livia*

Commonly seen around towns and cities throughout

Hill Pigeon*Columba rupestris*

We had good scope views of one during the drive from Longcanggou to Damba, Sichuan

Snow Pigeon*Columba leuconota*

We had good views of a flock of 8 at Balangshan Pass, Sichuan

Speckled Wood Pigeon*Columba hodgsonii*

Five at Gaoligongshan, Yunnan and ten more at Tangjiahe, Sichuan

Oriental Turtle Dove*Streptopelia orientalis*

We had good views of small numbers daily at Zixishan NR and Gaoligong, Yunnan. One was also seen at Wolong, Sichuan

Red Turtle (Collared) Dove*Streptopelia tranquebarica*

One was seen during the drive from Juizhaigou to Tangjiahe NR, Sichuan

Spotted Dove*Streptopelia chinensis*

We had good views of ten at the Magnolia Botanical Gardens, Chengdu - Sichuan

Pin-tailed [Green] Pigeon*Treron apicauda*

One was seen with the next species at Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Wedge-tailed [Green] Pigeon*Treron sphenurus*

We had good views of six at Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Mountain Imperial Pigeon*Ducula badia*

One was seen briefly at Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Cuckoos Cuculidae**Greater Coucal***Centropus sinensis*

One was heard calling during the drive from Gaoligong to Lijiang, Yunnan

Asian Koel*Eudynamis scolopaceus*

We heard it daily at Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan and one was seen at Longcanggou FR and another at Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

Plaintive Cuckoo*Cacomantis merulinus*

A calling bird was seen briefly during the drive from Gaoligong to Lijiang, Yunnan

Fork-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo*Surniculus dicruroides*

One was seen well but briefly at Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

NOTE: Drongo-cuckoo was recently split into two species: Fork-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo and Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo. According to IOC, Clements and Xeno Canto distributions we saw Fork-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo on this tour even though the bird in question had absolutely no hint of a forked tail and appeared very square-tailed. However, the overall distributions of the two species are greatly contradicted by each of these three authorities mentioned above and there is clearly still a lot to be learnt about these two "species".

Large Hawk-Cuckoo*Hierococcyx sparveroides*

We heard this species at Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan and had good views of two at Longcanggou FR and heard several at Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo (H)*Hierococcyx nasicolor*

We heard this species on several occasions and some saw one briefly at Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

NOTE: Two species are now recognized: Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo and Rufous (Northern) Hawk-Cuckoo. The species we heard on this tour was Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo.

Lesser Cuckoo*Cuculus poliocephalus*

We heard this species calling at Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan and again at Longcanggou FR and at Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

Himalayan Cuckoo*Cuculus saturatus*

We enjoyed good views of two at Longcanggou FR and another heard at Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

NOTE: Three species are now recognized: Orinetal Cuckoo, Himalayan Cuckoo and Sunda Cuckoo.

Common Cuckoo*Cuculus canorus*

Seen and heard calling at scattered sites throughout the tour.

Owls Strigidae**Oriental Scops Owl (H)***Otus sunia*

We heard one calling at Longcanggou FR, Sichuan

Tawny Fish Owl*Ketupa flavipes*

We had good views of an adult and juvenile in Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

Himalayan (Tawny/Himalayan Wood) Owl (H)*Strix nivicolum*

We heard one calling at Longcanggou FR, Sichuan

NOTE: This species was recently split from Tawny Owl.

Collared Owlet*Glaucidium brodiei*

One was seen briefly and also heard at Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Asian Barred Owlet*Glaucidium cuculoides*

We had good views of one in Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

Little Owl*Athene noctua*

One bird was seen during the drive from Maerkang to Ruogai, Sichuan

Swifts Apodidae**Himalayan Swiftlet***Aerodramus brevirostris*

We had good views of three at Cangshan, Yunnan

White-throated Needletail*Hirundapus caudacutus*

We had good views of 10 at Longcanggou and a further 3 at Mengbishi, Sichuan

Pacific Swift*Apus*

We had good views of many at Cangshan and daily sightings at Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan with up to 50 daily at Jiuzhai Valley NP and several at Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

NOTE: Pacific Swift was recently split into four species: Blyth's Swift, Salim Ali's Swift, Cook's Swift and Pacific Swift. We encountered three out of the four species on this tour. Both IOC and Clements accepts these splits. Due to the difficulty inseparating these species in the field, one is often basing the identification on distribution. This is obviously particularly difficult to do where the species overlap in range such as Cook's and Pacific in Yunnan and Salim Ali's and Pacific in Tibet.

Salim Ali's Swift*Apus salimalii*

We had good views of two at Rilong. Possibly more seen at Jiuzhaigou

NOTE: See above.

Cook's Swift*Apus Cooki*

Several good sightings were had in Yunnan with especially close views at Cangshan

NOTE: See above.

House Swift*Apus nipalensis*

Commonly seen at Zixishan and Cangshan with further sightings at Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan and also around Chengdu, Sichuan

Note: This species was fairly recently split from Little Swift.

Rollers Coraciidae**Indian Roller***Coracias benghalensis*

One was seen during the drive from Gaoligong to Lijiang, Yunnan

NOTE: Handbook to the birds of the World splits this species into two.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae**White-throated Kingfisher***Halcyon smyrnensis*

One was seen briefly in Dali and later we had good views of another during the drive from Gaoligong to Lijiang, Yunnan

Black-capped Kingfisher*Halcyon pileata*

One was seen very briefly at Wolong, Sichuan

Common Kingfisher*Alcedo atthis*

We had good scope views of one in Zixishan NR, Yunnan

Crested Kingfisher*Megaceryle lugubris*

We had great views of several on consecutive days in Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

Bee-eaters Meropidae**Green Bee-eater***Merops orientalis*

We had great views of two near Gaoligong, Yunnan

NOTE: Handbook To the birds of the world splits this species into three!

Blue-tailed Bee-eater*Merops philippinus*

We had great views of several near Gaoligong, Yunnan

Hoopoes Upupidae**(Eurasian) Hoopoe***Upupa epops*

We had good views of a couple in Zixishan NR, three at Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan and a further one at Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

NOTE: Most authorities accept three species of Hoopoe: Eurasian, African and Madagascan.

Asian Barbets Megalaimidae**Great Barbet (H)***Psilopogon virens*

We heard several calling in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan and another heard in Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan.

Golden-throated Barbet*Psilopogon franklinii*

We had great views of several in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Blue-throated Barbet*Psilopogon asiaticus*

We had great scope views of several in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Coppersmith Barbet (H)*Psilopogon haemacephalus*

We heard this species during the drive from Gaoligong to Lijiang

Woodpeckers Picidae**Eurasian (Northern) Wryneck***Jynx torquilla*

We had good scope views of one in the Baxi Valley, Sichuan

Speckled Piculet*Picumnus innominatus*

We had great views of one in the Magnolia Botanical Gardens and several more at Longcanggou FR, Sichuan

Grey-capped [Pygmy] Woodpecker*Dendrocopos canicapillus*

A pair was seen very well in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan and several more in Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

Crimson-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos cathpharius*

We enjoyed good scope views of one in Longcanggou FR, with further sightings at Jiuzhai Valley NP and Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

Darjeeling Woodpecker *Dendrocopos darjellensis*

We enjoyed good scope views of one in Longcanggou FR, Sichuan

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Our first sighting was of one in Zixishan NR, Yunnan with further sightings in Jiuzhai Valley NP and Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius*

We had splendid views of a male in the Baxi Valley, Sichuan

Greater Yellownap *Chrysophlegma flavinucha*

One was seen very briefly in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*

We heard one in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan and saw one briefly in Longcanggou FR, Sichuan

Falcons & Kestrels Falconidae

Common (Eurasian) Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

One was seen during the drive from Maerkang to Ruorgai, Sichuan

NOTE: IOC recognizes two species: Common Kestrel and Rock Kestrel whereas Clements only recognizes one species, Eurasian Kestrel.

Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae

Black-winged Cuckooshrike *Coracina melaschistos*

We had good views of two in Zixishan NR, Yunnan

Rosy Minivet *Pericrocotus roseus*

A male was seen briefly during the drive from Gaoligong to Lijiang

Swinhoe's Minivet *Pericrocotus cantonensis*

We had good views of a female at Wolong and a further two during the drive from Jiuzhaigou to Tangjiahe, Sichuan

Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus*

We had good views of small numbers throughout.

Short-billed Minivet *Pericrocotus brevirostris*

We had good views of several daily in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus speciosus*

We had good views of several daily in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

NOTE: Two species are now recognized: Scarlet Minivet and Orange Minivet.

Shrikes Laniidae

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*

We had good views of one in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan and two in Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*

We had good views of small numbers on a daily basis in Yunnan and one was seen in the Magnolia Botanical Gardens in Chengdu, Sichuan

Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus*

Good views were had of several daily at Wolong and in the Baxi Valley, Sichuan

Chinese (Tibetan) Grey Shrike *Lanius sphenocercus*

We had good scope views of one during the drive from Maerkang to Ruorgai.

Vireos, Greenlets Vireonidae**White-bellied Erpornis (Yuhina)** *Erpornis zantholeuca*

We had good views of several on consecutive days in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Blyth's (White-browed) Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius aeralatus*

We had great views of a male in Zixishan NR and several more in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

*NOTE: White-browed Shrike-Babbler was recently split into four species: Blyth's, Pied, Himalayan and Dalat Shrike-Babblers.***Figbirds, Orioles Oriolidae****Black-naped Oriole** *Oriolus chinensis*

We had great scope views of two at Longcanggou, Sichuan

Maroon Oriole *Oriolus traillii*

One was seen briefly at Longcanggou

Drongos Dicruridae**Black Drongo** *Dicrurus macrocercus*

Seen at scattered sites throughout the trip

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*

We enjoyed good views of several daily in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus*

One was seen on consecutive days in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer*

One was seen briefly in a flock in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Hair-crested (Spangled) Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*

We had good views of several in Longcanggou FR, Sichuan

*NOTE: Hair-crested Drongo was recently split from Spangled Drongo.***Fantails Rhipiduridae****White-throated Fantail** *Rhipidura albicollis*

We had good views of several in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Monarchs Monarchidae**Amur (Asian) Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone incei*

A male was seen briefly in the Magnolia Botanical Gardens, Sichuan

*NOTE: Asian Paradise Flycatcher was very recently split into two species: Oriental Paradise Flycatcher and Amur Paradise Flycatcher. According to IOC's written distribution of the the two species it appears that the bird we saw on this tour refers to Amur Paradise Flycatcher. However, little is currently known about the two species and their plumage and exact distributions.***Crows, Jays Corvidae****Sichuan Jay** *Perisoreus internigrans*

One was seen briefly by Dennis and others heard at Mengbishan, Sichuan

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Two were seen at Zixishan NR, Yunnan and several in Longcanggou FR, Sichuan

Azure-winged Magpie *Cyanopica cyanus*

We had good views of three during the drive from Maerkang to Ruorgai, Sichuan

[Red-billed] Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*

Seen at many sites throughout the tour

Eurasian (Common) Magpie*Pica pica*

Three were seen during the drive from Longcanggou to Damba and two more during the drive from Maerkang to Ruorgai, Sichuan

Spotted Nutcracker*Nucifraga caryocatactes*

We had good views of several in Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

Red-billed Chough*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Up to 20 were seen at Balangshan Pass with scattered sightings elsewhere, Sichuan

Alpine Chough*Pyrrhocorax graculus*

Peak numbers of 11 were seen at Balangshan Pass and two more at Snowy Mountain Pass, Sichuan

Daurian Jackdaw*Coloeus dauuricus*

We had good views of three during the drive from Maerkang to Ruorgai, Sichuan

Carrion Crow*Corvus corone*

We enjoyed good views of several daily in the Baxi Valley, Sichuan

Collared Crow*Corvus torquatus*

We had good views of two during the drive from Jiuzhaigou to Tangjiahe.

Large-billed Crow*Corvus macrorhynchos*

Seen virtually daily in small numbers throughout the tour

Northern (Common) Raven*Corvus corax*

Up to three seen daily in the vicinity of Ruorgai

Fairy Flycatchers Stenostiridae**Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher***Culicicapa ceylonensis*

We had good views of a couple daily in Zixishan NR, Yunnan and a further two in Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

Tits, Chickadees Paridae**Yellow-browed Tit***Sylviparus modestus*

We had good views of one at Longcanggou FR, Sichuan

Rufous-vented Tit*Periparus rubidiventris*

We had good views of several at Wolong and several more in Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

Coal Tit*Periparus ater*

We had good views of two in Longcanggou FR, Sichuan

Yellow-bellied Tit*Periparus venustulus*

Four of this attractive endemic was seen very well in Longcanggou FR and several more in Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

Grey-crested Tit*Lophophanes dichrous*

We had great views of three at Mengbisha including one building a nest, several more were seen in Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

White-browed Tit*Poecile superciliosus*

We had fabulous views of two during the drive from Maerkang to Ruorgai, Sichuan

Pere David's (Rusty-breasted) Tit*Poecile davidi*

We had great views of one at Longcanggou FR and three in Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

Black-bibbed Tit*Poecile hypermelaenus*

After some effort we managed to find one of these rare birds at Azalia Mountain, Yunnan

NOTE: This and the next species were recently split from Marsh Tit.

Sichuan Tit*Poecile weigoldicus*

We had great views of one at Balangshan Pass and several more in the Baxi Valley, Sichuan

NOTE: See above.

Ground Tit (Hume's Groundpecker) *Pseudopodoces humilis*

We had wonderful views of several on the Tibetan Plateau, Sichuan

Japanese Tit *Parus minor*

Our first sightings were in the Magnolia Botanical Gardens with further sightings at Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

NOTE: Three species are now recognized: Great Tit, Japanese Tit and Cinereous Tit.

Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus*

Commonly encountered throughout the trip

Yellow-cheeked Tit *Machlolophus spilonotus*

We had great views of several daily in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Larks Alaudidae**Oriental Skylark** *Alauda gulgula*

One was seen at Lijiang wetland, Yunnan and several more on the Tibetan Plateau, Sichuan

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

We had wonderful views on the Tibetan Plateau, especially around Flower Lake, Sichuan

Tibetan Lark *Melanocorypha maxima* We

enjoyed good scope views of several at Flower Lake, Sichuan

Bulbuls Pycnonotidae**Crested Finchbill** *Spizixos canifrons*

Several were seen daily in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Collared Finchbill *Spizixos semitorques*

First seen in the Magnolia Botanical Gardens with further views in Longcanggou FR and in Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

Striated Bulbul *Pycnonotus striatus*

We had good views of small numbers daily in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*

Several were seen in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Brown-breasted Bulbul *Pycnonotus xanthorrhous*

Seen daily in Yunnan and during the drive from Longcanggou to Damba, Sichuan

Light-vented (Chinese) Bulbul *Pycnonotus sinensis*

Common around Chengdu and Longcanggou FR, Sichuan

Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer*

We had good views of several around Zixishan and Dali, Yunnan

Sooty-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster*

Commonly seen around the lowlands of Gaoligong, Yunnan

Flavescent Bulbul *Pycnonotus flavesens*

We had good scope views of up to four daily at Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Mountain Bulbul *Ixos mcclllandii*

We had good views of several at Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan and a further two at Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*

We had good views of several daily at Zixishan NR and Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan and again at Longcanggou FR, Sichuan. Several of the distinctive white-headed race were seen at Zixishan.

NOTE: Two species are now recognized: Black Bulbul and Square-tailed Bulbul.

Swallows, Martins Hirundinidae**Pale Martin** *Riparia diluta*

Our first sightings were of several near Goaligong, Yunnan with several more seen extremely well at Flower Lake, Sichuan

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Commonly seen daily in Yunnan and occasionally in Sichuan

Eurasian Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

A few were seen on the drive from Longcanggou to Damba and several more at Rilong, Sichuan

Asian [House] Martin *Delichon dasypus*

Commonly seen throughout the tour

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

Seen at scattered localities, with peak numbers of 20 during the drive from Longcanggou to Damba, Sichuan

NOTE: Three species now exist: Red-rumped, Sri Lanka and West African Swallows respectively. IOC recognizes all three while Clements only recognizes two species: Red-rumped Swallow and Sri Lanka Swallow.

Cupwings Pnoepygidae

Chinese Wren-babbler (Cupwing) (H) *Pnoepyga mutica*

We heard this species at Longcanggou FR and again at Wolong, Sichuan

NOTE: Scaly-breasted Wren-Babbler was recently split into three species: Chinese, Taiwan and Scaly-breasted Wren-Babblers (Cupwings).

Pygmy Wren-babbler (Cupwing) *Pnoepyga pusilla*

We had superb views of one at Goaligong, Yunnan and heard several others in Sichuan

Cettia Bush Warblers & allies Cettiidae

Rufous-faced Warbler *Abroscopus albogularis*

We had good views of one during the drive from Jiuzhaigou to Tangjiahe and another in Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

Mountain Tailorbird *Phyllergates cuculatus*

One was seen briefly at Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Brown(-ish)-flanked Bush Warbler *Horornis fortipes*

We had great views of one in Longcanggou FR and another in Tangjiahe NR, Sichuan

Yellow(-ish)-bellied Bush Warbler *Horornis acanthizoides*

We had good views of one in Longcanggou FR, Sichuan

NOTE: Two species are now recognized from the original Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler: Yellow-bellied Bush Warbler and Hume's Bush Warbler.

Aberrant Bush Warbler *Horornis flavolivaceus*

We had great views of two in Zixishan NR, Yunnan and a further one in Longcanggou FR, Sichuan

Grey-bellied Tesia *Tesia cyaniventer*

We had good but brief views of one in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Chestnut-headed Tesia (H) *Cettia castaneocoronata*

We heard it several times in Longcanggou FR, Sichuan

Pale-footed Bush Warbler *Urosphena pallidipes*

One was seen briefly in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Bushtits Aegithalidae

Black-throated Bushtit (Tit) *Aegithalos concinnus*

We had good views on an almost daily basis in Yunnan and a further ten were seen during the drive from Tangjiahe to Chengdu, Sichuan

NOTE: This species is likely to be split into two in the near future: Black-throated Bushtit (widespread) and Grey-crowned Bushtit (endemic to southern Vietnam).

Black-browed Bushtit (Tit) *Aegithalos bonvaloti*

We had superb views of up to six daily in Zixishan NR and a further at Azalia Mountain, Yunnan

NOTE: Three species are now recognized: Rufous-fronted, Black-browed and Burmese Bushtits. IOC accepts these splits but Clements does not as yet.

Sooty Bushtit (Tit) *Aegithalos fuliginosus*

We had wonderful views of 30 in Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

White-browed Tit-warbler *Leptopoecile sophiae*

Our first sighting was of one on Balangshan Pass with scattered sightings elsewhere, Sichuan

Crested Tit-warbler *Leptopoecile elegans*

A cracker! We had splendid views of this beauty on Mengbisha Pass on several occasions and a further pair was seen at Gonggangling Pass, Sichuan

Leaf Warblers and allies Phylloscopidae

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

We had good views of two at Lijiang wetland, Yunnan and another in Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

Alpine Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus occisinensis*

We had good views of several around Wolong and in the Baxi Valley, Sichuan

NOTE: This species was recently split from Tickell's Leaf Warbler.

Buff-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus subaffinis*

We had good views of 2 in Longcanggou FR and a further 5 at Mengbisha, Sichuan

Yellow-streaked Warbler *Phylloscopus armandii*

We had good views of several in the Baxi Valley and again in Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

Buff-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus pulcher*

We had good views of 3 at Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan and several at Wolong and Baxi Valley, Sichuan

Ashy-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus maculipennis*

We had great views of one in Zixishan NR, Yunnan

Chinese Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus yunnanensis*

We heard several and saw one in Jiuzhai Valley NP

Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*

One was seen in Zixishan NR, Yunnan and several more daily in Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

Fairly common throughout with good sightings in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan and again in Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

Large-billed Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus magnirostris*

Great sightings of up to 6 daily in Longcanggou FR and again in Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

Blyth's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides*

We had great views on a daily basis in Yunnan with notable sightings in Zixishan NR

Claudia's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus claudiae*

We had good views of many in Longcanggou FR, Wolong and Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

NOTE: This species was recently split from Blyth's Leaf Warbler.

Emei Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus emeiensis*

We heard this species in Longcanggou FR and later this rare leaf warbler was seen very well in Tangjiahe NR, Sichuan

Davison's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus davisoni*

We had good views of several in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

NOTE: This and the next species were recently split from White-tailed Leaf Warbler. The name White-tailed Leaf Warbler has now fallen away.

Kloss's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus ogilviegranti*

We had good sightings of two in Longcanggou FR and a further one in Tangjiahe NR, Sichuan

NOTE: See above.

Sichuan Leaf Warbler*Phylloscopus forresti*

We first found this species in Longcanggou FR with further sightings in Baxi Valley and Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

NOTE: This species was recently split from Lemon-rumped Warbler.

Grey-crowned Warbler*Seicercus tephrocephalus*

We had good views of one in Zixishan NR, Yunnan.

NOTE: This species was along with the next three species and another two species not possible on this route included in the Golden-spectacled Warbler group that was recently split into six different species based on call, song, habitat, altitudinal range and slight plumage variations.

Bianchi's Warbler*Seicercus valentini*

Two were seen in Zixishan NR, Yunnan with a further sighting in Longcanggou FR, Sichuan

NOTE: See above.

Marten's Warbler*Seicercus omeiensis*

One was seen in Longcanggou FR and several more in Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

NOTE: See above.

Alström's Warbler*Seicercus soror*

After much effort we had good views of several in Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

NOTE: See above.

Chestnut-crowned Warbler*Seicercus castaniceps*

We had good views of two in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan with further sightings in Longcanggou FR and near Tangjiahe, Sichuan

Reed Warblers and allies Acrocephalidae**Oriental Reed Warbler***Acrocephalus orientalis*

We had good views of 20 at Lijiang wetland, Yunnan

Grassbirds and allies Locustellidae**Russet Bush Warbler***Locustella mandelli*

We had good views of one at Cangshan, Yunnan

Sichuan Bush Warbler*Locustella chengi*

We had great views of one in Longcanggou FR, Sichuan

NOTE: This species was very recently split from the latter species.

Spotted Bush Warbler*Locustella thoracica*

We had simply amazing views of one in Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

Baikal Bush Warbler*Locustella davidi*

We had fairly good views of one in Tangjiahe NR, Sichuan

NOTE: This species was recently split from the latter species due to its very different and distinctive call.

Brown Bush Warbler*Locustella luteoventris*

We had amazing views of two in Longcanggou FR, Sichuan

Cisticolas and allies Cisticolidae**Striated Prinia***Prinia crinigera*

We had great views of one near Gaoligong, Yunnan

Hill Prinia*Prinia superciliaris*

We had superb views of several daily in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

NOTE: Two species now exists: Black-throated Prinia and Hill Prinia.

Grey-breasted Prinia*Prinia hodgsonii*

We had good views of one at our accommodation near Gaoligong and a further two during the drive from Gaoligong to Lijiang.

Plain Prinia*Prinia inornata*

During the drive from Zixishan to Dali we found one nesting at a comfort stop. A further four were seen

at Lijiang.

Common Tailorbird

Orthotomus sutorius

We had good views of two at our accommodation near Gaoligongshan NR.

Babblers Timaliidae

Black-streaked Scimitar Babbler

Pomatorhinus gravivox

We had good views of this skulker in Zixishan NR, again at Cangshan and at Gaoligongshan, Yunnan.

NOTE: Three species now exist: Black-streaked, Black-necklaced and Spot-breasted Scimitar Babblers.

Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler

Pomatorhinus ruficollis

Seen almost daily in Yunnan.

Rufous-capped Babbler

Stachyridopsis ruficeps

We had good views of several at Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Fulvettas, Ground Babblers Pellorneidae

Yellow-throated Fulvetta

Alcippe cinerea

We had good but brief views of two in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Rusty-capped Fulvetta

Alcippe dubia

We had splendid views of several in Zixishan NR and three more in Gaoligongshan, Yunnan

Yunnan Fulvetta

Alcippe fratercula

Good numbers were seen daily in Zixishan and Gaoligongshan NR's, Yunnan

NOTE: The Grey-cheeked Fulvetta complex has now been split up into several different species, one of them being Yunnan Fulvetta.

Laughingthrushes Leiothrichidae

Chinese Babax

Babax lanceolatus

We had brief views of 5 at Azalia Mountain, Yunnan

Chinese Hwamei

Garrulax canorus

One was seen briefly in Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

Snowy-cheeked (Sukatchev's) Laughingthrush

Garrulax sukatschewi

We had superb views of several in the Baxi Valley, Sichuan

Giant Laughingthrush

Garrulax maximus

We had good views at Wolong and again at Mengbishi, Sichuan

Spotted Laughingthrush

Garrulax ocellatus

Those that opted for the hike up the mountain had great views of the black-headed race in Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

NOTE: We saw the distinctive and endemic Black-headed (*artemesiae*) race of Spotted Laughingthrush on this tour.

White-throated Laughingthrush

Garrulax albogularis

Up to 8 were seen daily in Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

Plain (Pere David's) Laughingthrush

Garrulax davidi

We had good views of up to twenty daily in the Baxi Valley, Sichuan

Buffy Laughingthrush (H)

Garrulax berthemyi

We heard one calling at Longcanggou FR, Sichuan

NOTE: Two species have now been recognized: Buffy Laughingthrush and Rusty Laughingthrush.

White-browed Laughingthrush

Garrulax sannio

We had good daily sightings at Gaoligong, Yunnan and many in the Magnolia Botanical Gardens in Chengdu, Sichuan

Blue-winged Laughingthrush

Trochalopteron squamatum

Two were seen very briefly at Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Elliot's Laughingthrush

Garrulax elliotii

Seen almost daily in small numbers in Sichuan

Red-winged Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron formosum*

We had fabulous good views of three at Longcanggou FR, Sichuan

Red-tailed Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron milnei*

We had good views of a pair and later a group of six at Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Blue-winged Minla (Siva) *Minla cyanouroptera*

We recorded a couple at Zixishan NR and later had good views of up to 8 daily at Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Bar-throated (Chestnut-tailed) Minla *Minla strigula*

We had good views of two at Cangshan, Yunnan

Red-tailed Minla *Minla ignotincta*

We had good views of four in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan and another in Longcanggou FR, Sichuan

Scarlet-faced Liocichla *Liocichla ripponi*

We had good views of two in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

NOTE: This species was recently split from Red-faced Laughingthrush.

Emei Shan Liocichla *Liocichla omeiensis*

We heard this species on several occasions in Longcanggou FR and one was seen briefly by some of the group, Sichuan

Rusty-fronted Barwing *Actinodura egertoni*

We had great views of up to ten daily in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Silver-eared Mesia (Leiothrix) *Leiothrix argenteauris*

We had good sightings on both days in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Red-billed Leiothrix *Leiothrix lutea*

Small flocks were seen daily in Longcanggou FR, Sichuan

Black-headed Sibia *Heterophasia desgodinsi*

This stunning species was seen daily in small numbers at Zixishan and Gaoligongshan NR's, Yunnan

Beautiful Sibia *Heterophasia pulchella*

We enjoyed superb views of 8 in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan, where it was also observed nesting.

Sylviid Babblers Sylviidae

Golden-breasted Fulvetta *Lioparus chrysotis*

We had great views of a pair in Longcanggou FR, Sichuan

Rufous-tailed Babbler (Moupinia) *Moupinia poecilotis*

We had fabulous views of one of these rare babblers at Cangshan, Yunnan

White-browed Fulvetta *Fulvetta vinipectus*

We had great views of one at Cangshan and another at Azalia Mountain, Yunnan

Chinese Fulvetta *Fulvetta striaticollis*

We had good views of two at Mengbishi, Sichuan

Spectacled Fulvetta *Fulvetta ruficapilla*

One was seen briefly by some at Cangshan, Yunnan

Grey-hooded Fulvetta *Fulvetta cinereiceps*

We enjoyed good daily sightings of several at Longcanggou FR, Sichuan

Yellow-eyed Babbler *Chrysomma sinense*

One was seen briefly during the drive from Gaoligong to Lijiang.

Great Parrotbill *Conostoma aemodium*

One bird was seen very well at Longcanggou FR, Sichuan

Three-toed Parrotbill*Cholornis paradoxa*

We had fabulous views of this rare species at Longcanggou FR, Sichuan

Brown Parrotbill*Cholornis unicolor*

We had good views of a pair at Longcanggou FR, Sichuan

Spectacled Parrotbill*Sinosuthora conspicillata*

We had great views of several in Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

Vinous-throated Parrotbill*Sinosuthora webbiana*

Our first sightings were wonderful views of ten in the Magnolia Botanical Gardens, Chengdu with further daily sightings in Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

Ashy-throated Parrotbill*Sinosuthora alphonsiana*

We had good views of several in Longcanggou FR, Sichuan

Grey-headed Parrotbill*Psittiparus gularis*

We had good views of four in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

White-eyes Zosteropidae**Whiskered Yuhina***Yuhina flavicollis*

Up to 20 were seen daily in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Stripe-throated Yuhina*Yuhina gularis*

We had good views of one in Longcanggou FR, Yunnan

White-collared Yuhina*Yuhina diademata*

We had good sightings at Zixishan and Cangshan in Yunnan and good numbers daily in Longcanggou FR, Sichuan

Chestnut-flanked White-eye*Zosterops erythropleurus*

Several were seen in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan and later we had good views of one in Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

Japanese White-eye*Zosterops japonicus*

Seen almost daily in Yunnan with further sightings in Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

Oriental White-eye*Zosterops palpebrosus*

We had good views of three in Dali

Goldcrests, Kinglets Regulidae**Goldcrest***Regulus regulus*

We had good views of three at Mengbisha and several more at Gonggangling Pass, Sichuan

Wrens Troglodytidae**Eurasian Wren***Troglodytes troglodytes*

We had great views of one at Longcanggou FR, Sichuan

NOTE: Three species are now recognized from the old Winter Wren: Winter Wren, Eurasian Wren and Pacific Wren.

Nuthatches Sittidae**Eurasian Nuthatch***Sitta europaea*

We had good views of one in Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

NOTE: We saw the endemic and distinctive *sinensis* race of Eurasian Nuthatch on this tour.

Chestnut-vented Nuthatch*Sitta nagaensis*

We had good views of several in Zixishan and Gaoligongshan NR's, Yunnan

Yunnan Nuthatch*Sitta yunnanensis*

We had good views of one in Zixishan NR, Yunnan

Chinese (Black-capped) Nuthatch*Sitta villosa*

We had good views of two in Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

Przevalski's (White-cheeked) Nuthatch*Sitta przewalskii*

We had great views of one at Mengbishan, Sichuan

NOTE: This species was recently split from White-cheeked Nuthatch.

Giant Nuthatch *Sitta magna*

We had good views of several in Zixishan NR, Yunnan

Wallcreeper Tichodromidae

Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria*

One was seen briefly by some at Balangshan Pass, Sichuan

Treecreepers Certhiidae

Hodgson's Treecreeper *Certhia hodgsoni*

We had good views of two in Longcanggou FR, two more at Mengbishan and a final sighting at Gongangling Pass, Sichuan

NOTE: This species was recently split from Eurasian Treecreeper.

Sichuan Treecreeper *Certhia tianquanensis*

We had a good sighting of two in Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

NOTE: This species was only recently discovered and described and does not appear in the MacKinnon and Phillipps field guide. It is currently only known from five localities within Sichuan.

Starlings Sturnidae

Crested Myna *Acridotheres cristatellus*

Several were seen in Yunnan with further sightings of several in Chengdu, Sichuan

Red-billed Starling *Spodiopsar sericeus*

We had great views of two at Longcanggou FR and a further two in Chengdu, Sichuan

Black-collared Starling *Gracupica nigricollis*

One was seen briefly at Lijiang, Yunnan

Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnia malabarica*

Four were seen near Zixishan NR, Yunnan

Rosy Starling *Pastor roseus*

Hedda saw one at our accommodation near Gaoligong, Yunnan

Thrushes Turdidae

Plain-backed Thrush *Zoothera mollissima*

We had stunning views of one at Balangshan Pass, Sichuan

NOTE: The Plain-backed Thrush complex is likely to be split up into several different species with the species we saw being named Sichuan Thrush.

Long-tailed Thrush *Zootheradixoni*

We had good scope views of one at Mengbishan, Sichuan

Grandala *Grandala coelicolor*

We had magnificent views of a flock of one hundred at Wolong, Sichuan

Black-breasted Thrush *Turdus dissimilis*

We had the most memorable views of a male at Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan. Several more were also seen here.

Chinese Blackbird *Turdus mandarinus*

Several were seen in the Magnolia Botanical Gardens - Chengdu, Sichuan

NOTE: Four species of "Common Blackbird" are now recognized: Chinese, Tibetan, Common and Indian Blackbirds respectively.

Chestnut Thrush *Turdus rubrocanus*

We had good daily sightings of small numbers at Wolong, Baxi Valley and Jiuzhai Valley NP,

Sichuan

NOTE: We saw the distinctive, dark-grey headed guoldi race of Chestnut Thrush on this tour.

Kessler's (White-backed) Thrush *Turdus kessleri*

We had good daily sightings of small numbers at Wolong, Baxi Valley and Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus*

One was seen at Azalia Mountain, Yunnan

Chinese Thrush *Turdus mupinensis*

We had great scope views of one in Zixishan NR, Yunnan

Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis*

We had daily sightings of small numbers in Zixishan and Gaoligongshan NR's, Yunnan

Dark-sided (Siberian) Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica*

Daily sightings of small numbers in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Brown-breasted Flycatcher *Muscicapa muttui*

We had good scope views of one in Zixishan NR, Yunnan

Ferruginous Flycatcher *Muscicapa ferruginea*

Our first sighting was of one in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan with further sightings in Longcanggou FR, Jiuzhai Valley NP and Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

Chinese Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis glaucicomans*

Our first sighting was of one in Zixishan NR with further sightings in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

NOTE: This species was recently split from Blue-throated Blue Flycatcher.

Rufous-bellied Niltava *Niltava sundara*

A male was seen very well at Cangshan, Yunnan and a pair briefly at Tangjiahe NR, Sichuan

Vivid Niltava *Niltava vivida*

A female was seen briefly in Zixishan NR, Yunnan

Large Niltava *Niltava grandis*

We had good views of several in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Small Niltava *Niltava macgrigoriae*

A male was seen in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassinus*

We had daily sightings of small numbers in Zixishan and Gaoligongshan NR's, Yunnan and several in Longcanggou FR, Sichuan

Lesser Shortwing (H) *Brachypteryx leucophris*

We heard this species a couple of times in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

White-browed Shortwing (H) *Brachypteryx montana*

We heard one calling in Longcanggou FR, Sichuan

Indian Blue Robin *Larvivora brunnea*

We had great views of several in Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

White-bellied Redstart (Blue Robin) *Luscinia phoenicuroides*

We had fair views of a male at Longcanggou FR and later a fully adult male was seen sitting right out in the open in the Baxi Valley, Sichuan. A rare treat - this remains a bogey bird for quite a few people!

White-tailed (Himalayan) Rubythroat *Calliope pectoralis*

We had splendid views of several stunning males on Balangshan Pass, Sichuan

Siberian Rubythroat *Calliope calliope*

A male and female showed well but briefly on our first day in the Baxi Valley, Sichuan and the following day we were afforded excellent views of a male in the same valley

White-tailed Robin*Myiomela leucura*

A stunning male gave us a great show in Zixishan NR, Yunnan

White-browed Bush Robin*Tarsiger indicus*

After some effort a male showed well in Longcanggou FR, Sichuan

Himalayan Bluetail (Orange-flanked Bush Robin)*Tarsiger rufilatus*

We enjoyed good views of several stunning male daily whilst in the Wolong and Mengbisha areas, Sichuan

Golden Bush Robin*Tarsiger chrysaeus*

We heard one calling in Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

Little Forktail*Enicurus scouleri*

We had stunning views of one on our final morning in Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

White-crowned Forktail*Enicurus leschenaulti*

We had good but brief views of a pair in Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

Blue Whistling Thrush*Myophonus caeruleus*

One was seen at Azalia Mountain, Yunnan with further sightings at Mengbisha and daily in Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

Slaty-backed Flycatcher*Ficedula hodgsonii*

A male was seen well in Zixishan NR, Yunnan with further great sightings at Wolong and in Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher*Ficedula strophilata*

First seen at Longcanggou NR with further good views of several at Wolong, Sichuan

Taiga (Red-throated) Flycatcher*Ficedula albicilla*

We had good views of a couple at Lijiang wetland, Yunnan

NOTE: Two species are now recognized: Taiga and Red-breasted Flycatchers.

Snowy-browed Flycatcher*Ficedula hyperythra*

A confiding male was seen in Gaoligongshan NR, Sichuan

Little Pied Flycatcher*Ficedula westermanni*

We had good views of a male in Gaoligongshan NR, Sichuan

Slaty-blue Flycatcher*Ficedula tricolor*

A superb male was seen briefly in Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

Black Redstart*Phoenicurus ochruros*

We had good sightings of up to 20 daily on the Tibetan Plateau, Sichuan

Hodgson's Redstart*Phoenicurus hodgsoni*

A stunning male was seen very well in the Baxi Valley and another seen in Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

White-throated Redstart*Phoenicurus schisticeps*

We had splendid views of several male at Mengbisha and again in the Baxi Valley, Sichuan

Daurian Redstart*Phoenicurus auroreus*

Several superb males were seen during the drive from Jiuzhaigou to Tangjiahe and again during the drive from Tangjiahe to Chengdu, Sichuan

Blue-fronted Redstart*Phoenicurus frontalis*

We had amazing views of several at Wolong and again at Mengbisha, Sichuan

Plumbeous Water Redstart*Phoenicurus fuliginosus*

This common riverine species was seen on most days in suitable habitat in Sichuan

White-capped Redstart*Phoenicurus leucocephalus*

This common riverine species was seen on most days in suitable habitat in Sichuan

Blue Rock Thrush*Monticola solitarius*

A male was seen during the drive from Cangshan to Gaoligong, Yunnan and a further two during

the drive from Longcanggou to Damba

Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush

Monticola rufiventris

Our first sighting was of a male in the mist at Cangshan with further good sightings in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan and a final nice male in Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

Siberian Stonechat

Saxicola maurus

We had good sightings of six during the drive from Gaoligongshan NR to Lijiang, Yunnan with further sightings during the drive from Maerkang to Ruogai, Sichuan

NOTE: This species was recently split from Eurasian (Common) Stonechat along with several other species.

Pied Bush Chat

Saxicola caprata

Several were seen during the drive from Dali to Gaoligong

Grey Bush Chat

Saxicola ferreus

We had great sightings of up to six daily in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan and a couple in Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

Dippers Cinclidae

White-throated Dipper

Cinclus cinclus

We had stunning views of two in Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

Brown Dipper

Cinclus pallasi

We had good views of two at Longcanggou FR and several more in Jiuzhai Valley NP and Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

Leafbirds Chloropseidae

Orange-bellied Leafbird

Chloropsis hardwickii

One was seen briefly in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Flowerpeckers Dicaeidae

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker

Dicaeum ignipectus

Three were seen in Gaoligongshan NR and a further two males at Azalia Mountain, Yunnan

Sunbirds Nectariniidae

Mrs. Gould's Sunbird

Aethopyga gouldiae

Several were seen daily in Zixishan NR, Yunnan with further sightings at Longcanggou FR and in Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

Black-throated Sunbird

Aethopyga saturata

Several were seen daily in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Streaked Spiderhunter

Arachnothera magna

We had two very brief sightings in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

Russet Sparrow

Passer rutilans

Several seen in Zixishan NR and others at Lijiang wetland, Yunnan with further sightings at Longcanggou FR, Sichuan

Eurasian Tree Sparrow

Passer montanus

Commonly recorded throughout the trip

White-rumped Snowfinch

Onychostruthus taczanowskii

We had wonderful views of 30 near Flower Lake, Sichuan

Rufous-necked Snowfinch

Pyrgilauda ruficollis

We had good views of 8 near Flower Lake, Sichuan

Waxbills, Munias and allies Estrildidae**Scaly-breasted Munia (Nutmeg Mannikin)** *Lonchura punctulata*

A small flock was seen near Gaoligong, Yunnan

Accentors Prunellidae**Alpine Accentor** *Prunella collaris*

We had good views of two on Balangshan Pass, Sichuan

Rufous-breasted (-browed) Accentor *Prunella strophciata*

Our first sighting was of one seen briefly at Cangshan, Yunnan with further sightings at Wolong, Mengbisha and Baxi Valley, Sichuan

Maroon-backed Accentor *Prunella immaculata*

We had cracking scope views of one at Mengbisha and several more were seen at Gonggangling Pass, Sichuan

Wagtails, Pipits Motacillidae**Eastern Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla tschutschensis*

We had good views of six at Lijiang wetland, Yunnan

NOTE: Yellow Wagtail now consists of two separate species: Western and Eastern Yellow Wagtails. Many distinctive races exist within these two species complexes and may very well be split in the near future. The race of Eastern Yellow Wagtail that we saw was tschutschensis.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*

We had good views of three at Lijiang wetland, Yunnan and a further 10 at Flower Lake, Sichuan

NOTE: We saw both the grey-backed (citreola) race and the black-backed (calcarata) races of Citrine Wagtail on this tour. The black-backed race may very well be split in the near future as Tibetan Wagtail.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

We had good sightings of several at Longcanggou FR with further daily sightings at Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Common and seen virtually daily throughout

NOTE: Many distinctive races of White Wagtail exist. The races that we saw on this trip were personata (most common), ocularis and baicalensis. These may very well be split in future.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*

We had good views of four at Lijiang wetland, Yunnan

Blyth's Pipit *Anthus godlewskii*

One was seen at Lijiang wetland, Yunnan and another at Wolong, Sichuan

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

We had good views of 8 at Cangshan, Yunnan and a further two in the Baxi Valley, Sichuan

Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseus*

We had wonderful views of 30 at Balangshan Pass, Sichuan

Przevalski's Finch Urocynchramidae**Przevalski's Finch (Pinktail/Rosefinch) (Pink-tailed Bunting)** *Urocynchramus pylzowi*

We had simply awesome views of a pair during the drive from Maerkang to Ruogai. A real bonus and highlight for many participants.

Finches Fringillidae**Collared Grosbeak** *Mycerobas affinis*

We had good scope views of one at Cangshan, Yunnan and further sightings at Mengbisha and in Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

White-winged Grosbeak*Mycerobas carniceps*

We had good views of six at Mengbisha and another at Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

Chinese Grosbeak*Eophona migratoria*

We had splendid views of 8 birds in the Magnolia Botanical Gardens, Sichuan

Brown Bullfinch*Pyrrhula nipalensis*

We had good views of 6 at Longcanggou FR, Sichuan

Grey-headed Bullfinch*Pyrrhula erythaca*

We had good views of two in the Baxi Valley, Sichuan

Blanford's Rosefinch*Agraphospiza rubescens*

Some of us had good views of a female at Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

Dark-breasted Rosefinch*Procarduelis nipalensis*

We had great views of four fine males on Balangshan Pass, Sichuan

Plain Mountain Finch*Leucosticte nemoricola*

A flock of up to 100 were seen near Wolong, Sichuan

Brandt's Mountain Finch*Leucosticte brandti*

We had good views of several on consecutive days on Balangshan Pass, Sichuan

Common Rosefinch*Carpodacus erythrinus*

We had good views of several at Cangshan, Yunnan and a further two at Balangshan Pass, Sichuan

NOTE: There are many distinctive races of Common Rosefinch that may be split in future. The race we saw on this trip is the *roseatus* race.

Scarlet Finch*Carpodacus sipahi*

Several males and females were seen at Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Streaked Rosefinch*Carpodacus rubicilloides*

Several males and females were seen on Balangshan Pass, Sichuan

Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch*Carpodacus pulcherrimus*

We had good sightings of several at Wolong, Mengbisha and in the Baxi Valley, Sichuan

NOTE: Beautiful Rosefinch has now been split into two species: Chinese Beautiful Rosefinch in NE China and southern Mongolia and Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch in the rest of its range. We saw the *argyrophrys* race of Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch during the trip.

Pink-rumped Rosefinch*Carpodacus waltoni*

Several were seen at Wolong and Mengbisha, Sichuan

Vinaceous Rosefinch*Carpodacus vinaceus*

We had wonderful views of several at Longcanggou FR and a further male was seen in Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

Three-banded Rosefinch*Carpodacus trifasciatus*

We had good views of a pair at Mengbisha and a further two males at Gonggangling Pass, Sichuan

Chinese White-browed Rosefinch*Carpodacus dubius*

Commonly seen around Balangshan Pass, Mengbisha and Baxi Valley, Sichuan

NOTE: White-browed Rosefinch has now been split into two species: Chinese White-browed Rosefinch and Himalayan Chinese Rosefinch.

Red-fronted Rosefinch*Pyrrhospiza punicea*

We had good views of a pair on Balangshan Pass, Sichuan

Grey-capped (Oriental) Greenfinch*Chloris sinica*

We had great views of 15 in the Magnolia Botanical Gardens with scattered sightings elsewhere, Sichuan

Black-headed Greenfinch*Chloris ambigua*

We enjoyed superb views of up to 6 daily in Zixishan NR and several more at Cangshan, Yunnan

Twite*Linaria flavirostris*

We saw two on the Tibetan Plateau, Sichuan

Tibetan Serin *Spinus thibetanus*
We saw several in Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

Buntings & allies Emberizidae

Crested Bunting *Emberiza lathami*

We had good views of a pair near Gaoligong, Yunnan

Slaty Bunting *Emberiza siemsseni*

We had good views of a male in Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

Godlewski's Bunting *Emberiza godlewskii*

Our first sighting was in Zixishan NR, Yunnan with further sightings in the Baxi Valley, Sichuan

Yellow-throated Bunting *Emberiza elegans*

We had good views of a pair at Cangshan, Yunnan and a further male at Longcanggou, Sichuan

Black-faced Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala*

We had good views of several at Lijiang wetland, Yunnan and several more at Tangjiahe, Sichuan

ANNOTATED LIST OF MAMMALS RECORDED (20 species seen)

Milne-edwards' (Tibetan) Macaque *Macaca thibetana*

We had superb views of two troops in Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

Woolly Hare *Lepus oiostolus*

We had good views of two on the Tibetan Plateau, Sichuan

Burmese Hare *Lepus peguensis*

One was seen by some in Zixishan NR, Yunnan

Plateau Pika *Ochotona curzoniae*

Up to 100 were seen during our time around Flower Lake, Sichuan

Large-eared Pika *Ochotona macrotis*

We had good views of two at Mengbisha

Pallas's Squirrel *Callosciurus erythraeus*

We had good views of a couple in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Himalayan Marmot *Marmota himalayana*

We had great views of several on Balangshan Pass, the Tibetan Plateau and in the Baxi Valley, Sichuan

Black Giant Squirrel *Ratufa bicolor*

We had great scope views of a few in Gaoligongshan NR, Yunnan

Pere David's Rock Squirrel *Sciurotamias davidianus*

We had wonderful views of small numbers daily in Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

Swinhoe's Striped Squirrel *Tamias swinhoi*

We had good views of one in Longcanggou FR and a further two Jiuzhai Valley NP, Sichuan

Grey (Eurasian) Wolf *Canis lupus*

We had splendid views of two on the Tibetan Plateau

Tibetan Fox *Vulpes ferrilata*

Two were seen near Flower Lake, Sichuan

Yellow-throated Marten *Martes flavigula*

One was seen briefly crossing the road in Zixishan NR, Yunnan

Wild Boar *Sus scrofa*

Three were seen in Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

Siberian Roe (Red) Deer *Capreolus pygargus*

We had good views of five near Maerkang, Sichuan

Reeves' Muntjac

Muntiacus reevesi

We had good views of three daily in Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

(Golden) Takin

Budorcas taxicolor

We had great views of several daily in Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

Chinese Serow

Capricornis milneedwardsii

Pat and Bella saw two of these rarely seen mammals at Longcanggou

Chinese Goral

Naemorhedus baileyi

We had good views of three in Tangjiahe NNR, Sichuan

Blue Sheep

Pseudois nayaur

A splendid flock of 23 was seen on Balangshan Pass, Sichuan

Rockjumper Birding Ltd

c/o Summit Trust Mauritius Limited

Labourdonnais Village

Mapou

Mauritius

Tel (USA & Canada) toll free: 1-888-990-5552

Email: info@rockjumperbirding.com

Alternative email: rockjumperbirding@yahoo.com

Website: www.rockjumperbirding.com
