

CLASSIC CHINA HONG KONG & SICHUAN

MAY 9 - 31, 2007



Upland Buzzard & Yaks in weather—Brad Schram

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Leader: Dion Hobcroft

Our 2007 Classic China tour was outstandingly successful, as we birded some of the most spectacular and species-rich forests in central China in unparalleled comfort. New hotels and highways, and the ever helpful and friendly local people ensured a smooth tour. We also experienced some rustic hotels, hiked up into the mountains into bamboo and rhododendron forests, and explored the Tibetan Plateau with its thousands of yaks and Tibetan cowboys. The modernization taking place in China is proceeding at an unbelievable pace. I was constantly remarking to the group about a new tunnel, highway, hotel, statue, or cable car—and all of these differences in just 12 months! Many participants ranked our trip amongst their best ever birding tours.

The birds were simply phenomenal; we connected with so many of the rarest, most spectacular, and most elusive species China has to offer. We set a new benchmark in Classic China tours with a new trip record and a very high strike rate for all clients seeing those most special birds. Better environmental protection, including a ban on rifle hunting, is having an enormously beneficial impact on mammals and large birds. We observed 15 species of mammals and nine pheasants and partridges on this tour.

Our day in Hong Kong produced 78 species. At Tai Po Kau in the morning it was hard to beat the Streak-throated Scimitar-Babbler, Scarlet Minivet, and superb studies of Hainan Blue-Flycatcher and Velvet-fronted Nuthatch that kicked off our tour so well. Although we had a poor tide at Mai Po, we enjoyed a great Chinese Egret and flocks of striking White-winged Black Terns. It is a shame it has become so difficult to get flexible group access to this location. Our afternoon at the new Hong Kong Wetland Centre produced more good birds including White-winged Starling and a superb White-bellied Sea-Eagle, and we finished at Tsim Bei Tsui with a Large Hawk-Cuckoo in the telescope.

The bustling city of Cheng Du turned up some good sightings on our first afternoon in a bamboo city park. Although busy with people enjoying mah-jong and sunflower seeds, the park came through with Vinous-throated Parrotbill, super Black-throated Tits, and some very tame Chinese Grosbeaks, with a migrant Radde's Warbler and Purple-backed Starling both good sightings. A visit to the Leshan Buddha, a memorable experience in itself, also provided sightings of many species with a migrant Brown Hawk-Owl (now split as Northern Boobook) roosting over the Buddha's head a major bonus, and an exceptional view of a Chinese Bamboo-Partridge—two good ones.

Our Sichuan forest birding commenced at Emei Shan, the sacred Buddhist peak at the crossroads of Chinese bird distribution. The Golden Summit was shrouded in fog and persistent rain; it was quite a difficult day, but we came through with some good sightings. The Wannian Monastery was highlighted by a Chinese Blue Flycatcher singing its heart out right next to us, plus a skulking Hwamei. An afternoon at Wuxiangang turned up Little Forktail, Drongo Cuckoo, and Brown Dipper.

Our next move was to Wawu Shan—a must-visit superb forest birding location. On the summit we found Gray-hooded and Fulvous (amongst my top 10 birds in the world) parrotbills and the recently described Sichuan Treecreeper. Lower down, the mountain was alive with the endemic Emei Liocichla, Golden Parrotbills, the scarce Emei Leaf-Warbler, and unforgettable Lady Amherst's Pheasants. What a bird! As if this weren't enough, we had excellent views of the rare Rusty Laughingthrush, a stunning male Silver Pheasant, and a great view of a tufted deer—tons of great sightings.

We returned to Cheng Du where an afternoon spent with the giant pandas at a breeding center enabled us to get up close with this most charismatic vegetarian carnivore. There was also a superb Asian Paradise-Flycatcher, always a glamour bird. And our night at the Sichuan Opera was a highlight of the tour, especially the shadow puppet master, who gave me goose bumps.

Our next destination was the famous Wolong Biosphere Reserve. Unfortunately, a massive road-mending operation had perhaps 10,000 people working along the road, dynamiting and generally destroying any chance for quality roadside birding. We all made the trek up to the Wuyipeng Research Camp, and although the set-up was pretty basic, we were warm and well-fed, and woke up in superb bamboo forests. Plenty of good birds here included scarce endemics like the elusive Barred Laughingthrush and Firethroat, but it was the male and female Temminck's Tragopan we found roosting that stole the show. The next morning we had another view of the male tragopan, plus a bunch of great birds ranging from Chestnut-headed Tesia to Fire-capped Tit. We heard golden snubnose monkey in the distance and a Siberian weasel ran up to the group.

Due to the road-mending I changed our itinerary, cutting a night from Wolong crossing the Balan Shan Pass, and spending a night at Rilong. This worked out brilliantly; the following day, on the drive to Hong Yuan, was one of the great birding days of a great tour. We kicked off with Long-tailed Rosefinch, a pair of wild boar, Hill Pigeons, and a bunch of redstarts. Next we found nesting Wallcreepers and enjoyed point-blank repeated views as both parents came in to feed the chicks. At Mengbi Shan one of the first birds we focused on was a pair of Sichuan Jays, followed by a Blood Pheasant preceded by a Lammergeier. We were definitely on a roll. As we ascended the Tibetan Plateau, I stopped the bus for a Black Stork beside the road. When we filed out of the bus, the stork took off, only to be replaced by a Black-necked Crane. Wow!

After peering into dense bamboo in Wolong and battling with skulkers, everyone loved birding on the plateau. We stopped constantly for new birds, from the huge Upland Buzzard to the huge Tibetan Lark, Eurasian Wryneck, Ferruginous Duck, glowing Citrine Wagtails, Little Owl, Tibetan Snowfinch, and the odd Hume's Groundpecker.

The next morning we made an additional excursion to Daba Lake. What a treat! In perfect weather a major pika population boom attracted dozens of raptors including Steppe Eagles and Saker Falcons. The pika burrows provided refuge for nesting White-rumped Snowfinch, while the wetlands held numerous interesting birds from Red-crested Pochard, breeding-plumaged Mongolian Plover, Spotted Redshank, and White-winged Black Terns.

Jiuzhaigou is a simply stunning World Heritage Reserve with mirror lakes, Himalayan peaks and vast boreal forests. Although the birding here was slower (and the park full of tourists), it still provided many special sightings including scarce endemics like Blue Eared-Pheasant, Sukatschev's Laughingthrush, Chinese Nuthatch, Slaty Bunting, Pere David's Tit, and the remarkable Three-banded Rosefinch. We found some other good birds including both Black and Chinese Three-toed woodpeckers. Wending our way back to Chengdu, we made one last stop at Mount Qing Cheng. Our morning produced some good birds with Red-billed Starling the major highlight.

It was fantastic to experience some of the cultural highlights including the Leshan Buddha, incredible temples and monasteries, and a good bowl of tasty noodles in a roadside stall where westerners are rarely sighted. On our gastronomic journey we ate different dishes on a daily basis—all hot, fresh, and tasty. I really appreciated the wonderful help from Mr. Liu, our truly superb driver, and our interpreter-guide, Helen, who did an excellent job and enjoyed a good laugh. Helen is a Chinese national treasure. I wish to thank most sincerely all the participants who came along for this adventure.

ITINERARY

- May 12:** Hong Kong. Morning birding Tai Po Kau (TPK) Forest Reserve and Mai Po Marshes (MP) Afternoon visit the Wetland Centre (HKWLC) and Tsim Bei Tsui (TBT).
- May 13:** Fly Hong Kong to Chengdu. Afternoon birding in Wangjiang Park (1530-1800).
- May 14:** Drive from Chengdu to the Leshan Buddha (LB). In afternoon we drive to Emei Shan (EMS) and settle into our very comfortable hotel before exploring some nearby forest remnants and orchards on the Chuan Zhu Road.
- May 15:** Morning bus ride to Golden Summit transport centre. We “enjoy” some roadside birding in rain and fog before going up on the cable car to the Golden Summit. A cold and bleak day.
- May 16:** Morning bus ride to Wannian transport centre then on the Cable Car, we spend the morning exploring trails around the monastery (0630-1330). Afternoon birding at Wuxiangang that was very productive.
- May 17:** Drive from Emei to Wawu Shan (WWS) takes most of the day as we take the new road around the dam.
- May 18:** Wawu Shan: Morning birding at summit via cable car. Afternoon roadside birding below the cable car station.
- May 19:** Wawu Shan: Roadside birding below cable car.
- May 20:** Drive Wawu Shan to Chengdu. Afternoon at Chengdu Panda Breeding Centre (very hot conditions). Evening at Sichuan Opera.

- May 21:** Drive from Chengdu. to Wolong (**W**). Walk up the steep track behind Wolong Village called Sawan for Golden Pheasant.
- May 22:** A morning walk to Sawn for Golden Pheasant then walk up to Wuyipeng Panda Research Camp. Overnight Wuyipeng.
- May 23:** Full morning exploring Wuyipeng Panda Research Camp hiking down to arrive in Wolong at 1400. Afternoon drive to Balan Shan Pass and onward to Rilong where we spend the night. We sight some great birds as a reward for our efforts.
- May 24:** Drive Rilong to Hong Yuan (**HY**) via Mengbi Shan.
- May 25:** Full day birding from Hong Yuan to Rouergai (**R**) via Seventh Bend of Yellow River.
- May 26:** Rouergai to Daba Lake then to Jiuzhaigou (**J**) via Lama Pass, Baxizhen and Qiujiexiang.
- May 27:** Jiuzhaigou: morning Pearl Shoal Waterfall. Afternoon Long Lake
- May 28:** Jiuzhaigou: morning Long Lake. Afternoon Primeval Forest and Ganhaizi Lake.
- May 29:** Jiuzhaigou via Gong Gan Lin to Dujianyang.
- May 30:** Morning at Mount Qing Cheng (**MQC**). We take the mid-afternoon flight from Cheng Du to Hong Kong. Tour concludes.



7th Bend Shrine—Brad Schram

BIRDS

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*: (10) MP; (2) Chengdu Panda Breeding Centre; (1) Ganhaizi Lake.

Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*: (2) seen by Brad in flight near The Tea Centre between Chengdu and Leshan on 14 May.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*: (10) MP, (10) Wangjiang Park-breeding; (5) CDPBC-breeding; (4) HY and (3) DL; (10) MQC

Little Heron *Butorides striatus*: (5) MP

Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus*: (50) MP-nesting with many in colourful breeding plumage, (2) W; (3) Rilong.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*: (20) MP, (10) CDPBC; (1) Rilong; (20) HY, (2) J on lake near hotel. Sometimes now split as the **Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*** on consistent differences in breeding plumage, proportions and vocalisations.

Great Egret *Egretta alba*: (50) MP

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*: (1) MP on 12 May.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*: (100) MP, (20) CDPBC

Chinese Egret *Egretta eulophotes*: (1) MP gave excellent views fishing actively on the large scrape.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*: (5) MP, (2) DL

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*: (4) on 25 May on lake near HY with (50) DL the next day.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*: (4-30) on Tibetan plateau on three days.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*: (10-30) on J lakes on three days.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*: (10) DL

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*: (2) DL

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*: (2) on 26 May near HY with (10) DL.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*: (4) DL

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*: (10) DL

Common Merganser *Mergus merganser*: (4) on 25 May at HY on river.

Black Baza *Aviceda leucophotes*: (1) WWS on 19 May seen by Dion only and a pair on 20 May on drive from WWS to Chengdu.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans lineatus*: (20) HK on 11-12 May, (1-10) daily in Tibetan plateau from HY to R. This subspecies is sometimes recognised as a separate species the **Black-eared Kite** on the basis of its larger size, shallower tail fork and prominent dark cheek patch.

Lammergeier *Gypaetus barbatus*: (1) adult near Mengbi Shan Pass W on 24 May; (1) adult near Lama Pass on 26 May and (1) Gong Gan Lin 29 May.

Himalayan Griffon *Gyps himalayensis*: (1-5) recorded on 5 days. A great study of (5) perched birds near Gong Gan Lin on 29 May.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*: (2) HKWLC on 12 May gave a great view.

Shikra *Accipiter badius*: Bob and Brad surprised (1) at The Peak, HK on 11 May.

Chinese Goshawk *Accipiter soloensis*: (1) Chuan Zhu on 14 May; (1) on drive to WWS on 17 May; (2) display flying at WWS on 19 May and (1) on drive to CD on 20 May.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*: (1) Mengbi Shan on 24 May and (1) probably this species at J on 28 May.

Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*: (2) WWS on 20 May including a stunning displaying individual.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*: (2) on 24 May near Mengbi Shan. Taxonomy is complex and birds we observed are referable to **Himalayan Buzzard *Buteo burmanicus*** that recent published DNA phylogeny show is clearly specifically distinct.

Upland Buzzard *Buteo hemilasius*: (1-20) seen on 4 days with high count at Daba Lake on 26 May. Many good scope views allowing us to see the more extensively feathered tarsus and powerful eagle like build of this interesting *Buteo*.

Grey-faced Buzzard *Butastur indicus*: (5) on the 17 May between EMS and WWS. We enjoyed an excellent scope view of this migrant raptor.

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*: (5) at DL gave great views.



Steppe Eagle—Brad Schram

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*: (1) on 24 May flying with a Lammergeier and (2) on 26 May near Baxizhen and Lama Pass.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*: (1) at DL and (1) at Lama Pass; both on 26 May.

Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug*: (3) between The Seventh Bend of Yellow River and Rouergai on 25 May included one adult with two chicks at a nest. (3) at DL the next day including watching one pounce on a pika!

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*: (1) on 16 May at cliff face below Wannian Monastery, EMS and (1) on 24 May near Rilong. First time I have recorded this species in Sichuan.

Tibetan Snowcock *Tetraogallus tibetanus*: (1) at Lama Pass on drive from R to J on 26 May gave a distant but OK scope view.

Chinese Bamboo-Partridge *Bambusicola thoracica*: (1) at Leshan Buddha gave a superb view and later in the same day Dave spotted (2) crossing a creek at Chuan Zhu. Bart also saw (1) at WWS on 20 May. Heard on 5 days. Typically very secretive and always difficult to see well.

Blood Pheasant *Ithaginis cruentus*: (1) male Mengbi Shan on 24 May and (2) Long Lake, J. on 28 May.

Temminck's Tragopan *Tragopan temminckii*: (3) a female, immature male and a stunning male found roosting at Wuyipeng in late afternoon on 22 May with the adult male seen again well in the morning of 23 May.

Koklass Pheasant *Pucrasia macrolopha*: Heard only at Wuyipeng on 23 May.

E Blue-eared Pheasant *Crossoptilon auritum*: (1) seen well by some at Long Lake, J on 28 May.

Ring-necked Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*: (1-4) seen on 6 days between Hong Yuan and J. Lots of great views of this handsome species.

E Golden Pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus*: (1) adult male seen roosting by several at Sawan, W. on 21-22 May. Heard also on the walk up to Wuyipeng, W.

Lady Amherst's Pheasant *Chrysolophus amherstiae*: (1-4) seen on 4 days at WWS mostly of immature males and females but a couple of folks had good views of an adult male. Another of the world's unbelievable birds.

Silver Pheasant *Lophura nycthemera*: Brad enabled everyone in the whole group to have a wonderful view of a male and female at WWS on 17 May. A great tour highlight and my first Sichuan sighting.



Silver Pheasant—Brad Schram

Black-necked Crane *Grus nigricollis*: A great year for this species with (1) on 24 May near HY; (8) between HY and R on 25 May and (25) at DL on 26 May. Many excellent scope views including pairs nesting at Waqi.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*: (1) seen on three days between HY and DL. Some good views of this shy and scarce species in Sichuan.

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*: (10) MP and (1) seen by Dion at Ganhaizi Lake, J on 29 May.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*: (10) MP and (10) Ganhaizi Lake, J on 29 May.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*: (5) DL

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*: (3) MP

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*: (5) MP on 12 May

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*: (1) in breeding plumage at DL was well spotted by Tom.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*: (4) DL

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*: (1) DL in breeding plumage.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*: (10) MP and (2-20) on three days on Tibetan plateau wetlands.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*: (3) MP

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*: (20) MP

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*: (2) MP on 12 May and (1) Wangjiang Park, CD on 13 May.

Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes*: (4) HKWLC on 12 May.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*: (10) MP on 12 May of the eastern subspecies; a possible split.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*: (20) MP on 12 May and (1) DL on 26 May.

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostris himantopus*: (30) MP on 12 May.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*: (3) MP on 12 May and (2) DL on 26 May.

Brown-headed Gull *Larus brunnicephalus*: (6) HY-Yellow River on 25 May and (50 plus) DL on 26 May including one flying past with a pika in its mandibles.

Pallas's Gull *Larus ichthyaetus*: (1) non-breeding plumaged immature at Seventh Bend of Yellow River on 25 May.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*: (50) MP all in stunning breeding plumage was one of the highlights of our visit here with (10) also in breeding plumage at DL on 26 May.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*: (2) MP

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*: (8) between HY and R on 25 May and (20) DL on 26 May.

Hill Pigeon *Columba rupestris*: (10) at town of Jilong 40 km W of Balan Shan Pass, W on 24 May.

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*: Widespread and moderately common, recorded on 8 days with max. (20) in Cheng Du.

Speckled Wood Pigeon *Columba hodgsonii*: (2) scoped at WWS on 19 May with (2) here leader only on the same day. (6) seen on 20 May at WWS. A good result for this unpredictable species.

Red Collared Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica*: (20) TBT in HK roosting in the mangroves in the late afternoon. (2) at Rilong on 24 May with (2) Yellow River on 25 May and (2) at Gong Gan Lin, J. on 29 May.

Spotted Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*: Moderately common in HK and CD.

Oriental Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*: (2) Rilong on 24 May.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*: (4) HKWLC on 12 May.

Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon *Treron sphenurus*: Heard only at Wannian Monastery, EMS on 16 May and at WWS on 17-19 May.

White-bellied Green Pigeon *Treron sieboldii*: (1) female perched, scoped and digiscoped, studied at length at WWS on 19 May where you could make out the white vent that is considered diagnostic for this species. There is a possibility this is in fact Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon as this character is probably subject to geographic variation. Also the call is diagnostic for Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon that we heard repeatedly in this site although this female was not calling.

Large Hawk Cuckoo *Cuculus sparveroides*: (1) TBT seen in the late afternoon on 12 May was a good sighting in HK. (1) on 14 May at LB with (2) WWS on 18 May and (1) Sawan, W. on 21 May. Heard on a further 10 days. Some good views of this notorious skulker.

Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo *Cuculus nasicolor*: (1) WWS on 17 May gave a superb view. Heard at TPK on 12 May and heard daily at WWS. Birds of this population are now recognised under the taxon *nasicolor* rather than *fugax*.

Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus*: Heard only at MP on 12 May; EMS on 14 and 16 May at lower altitudes.

Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus*: (3) on 18 May at WWS and (2) Wuyipeng, W on 22 May. Heard on a further 7 days.

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*: Seen on 5 days with a max. (10) Rilong and HY on 24 May. Heard on a further 2 days.

Lesser Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus*: Heard only on 9 days.

Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris*: (1) at Wuxiangang, EMS on 16 May and heard only at Wannian Monastery, EMS the same day. Also heard on drive from EMS to WWS on 17 May.

Asian Koel *Eudynamis scolopacea*: (6) MP with several good views; heard only EMS and WWS on 5 days.

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*: (1) MP and (1) HKWLC on 12 May.

Oriental Scops Owl *Otus sunia*: Heard at WWS on 18 May. The population here belongs to the taxon *stictonotus*.

Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei*: (1) seen by Brad at Wannian Monastery, EMS on 16 May; everyone had a great view of (1) at WWS on 19 May and heard only at Wuyipeng, W on 23 May.



Collared Owlet—Brad Schram

Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides*: Heard at LB on 14 May.

Brown Hawk Owl *Ninox scutulata*: (1) found by John roosting in a tree over the head of the Leshan Buddha gave a superb view. This migratory population is sometimes split as the **Northern Boobook *Ninox japonica***. Also heard by Bart from his room at our J hotel 27-28 May.

Himalayan Wood Owl *Strix nivicola*: Heard only at Wuyipeng, W on 22 May.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*: (1) seen on drive from HY to R on Tibetan plateau on 25 May.

Himalayan Swiftlet *Aerodramus brevirostris*: (10) EMS on 16 May and (30) between WWS and CD on 20 May.

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*: Seen on 6 days with max. (100) on 26 May near J.

House Swift *Apus affinis*: (5) TBT on 12 May and (1) Emei City on 15 May.

White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*: Seen on 7 days with many good views including our first sighting of (10) zooming over the car park Golden Summit, EMS on 15 May.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*: (5) MP, HKWLC and TBT on 12 May; (1) Chuan Zhu, EMS on 14 May and (2) near our hotel EMS on 17 May.

Black-capped Kingfisher *Halcyon pileata*: (1) 22 May on Pitaio River near village we walked to ascend Wuyipeng, W.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*: (4) MP

Common Hoopoe *Upupa epops*: (2) on 25 May near HY and (1) DL on 26 May.

Great Barbet *Megalaima virens*: Heard only WWS on 18 May.

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*: (1) near HY on 25 May gave a great view.

Speckled Piculet *Picumnus innominatus*: (1) at WWS on 19 May; heard on 3 other days.

Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus*: (2) WWS on 19 May gave a good scope view.

Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos canicapillus*: (1) WWS on 18 May gave a good view; subspecies *szetschuanensis*.

Three-toed Woodpecker *Picoides tridactylus*: (1) male of the subspecies *funebri* gave a great view near Long Lake, J on 28 May. Often considered a separate species from American and other Palaearctic subspecies.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Picoides major*: (1) near Pearl Shoal Waterfall, J on 28 May.

White-backed Woodpecker *Picoides leucotos*: (1) WWS on 18 May gave a great view.

Darjeeling Woodpecker *Picoides darjellensis*: (2) WWS on 19 May gave great views.

Crimson-breasted Woodpecker *Picoides cathparius*: (1) WWS on 19 May with (1) Wuyipeng, W. on 22 May and one near Mengbi Shan on 24 May.

Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*: Heard only 23 May at Wuyipeng, W.

Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius*: (2) seen in flight and briefly in the scope on 28 May near Long Lake, J.

Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula*: Common on Tibetan plateau on 25-26 May.

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*: Common on Tibetan plateau 24-26 May.

Tibetan Lark *Melanocorypha maxima*: (4) on lake near HY on 25 May including an amazingly prolonged aerial display for thirty minutes with a pair seen the next day at DL.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*: (1) HKWLC on 12 May.

Pale Martin *Riparia diluta*: (5) near Leshan Buddha on 14 May; (20) on both 25-26 May on Tibetan plateau with (10) on 29 May near Gong Gan Lin

Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus*: (10-20) recorded on 6 days.

Eurasian Crag Martin *Hirundo rupestris*: Recorded on 4 days with maximum (100) in gorge country west of Jilong on 24 May.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*: Moderately common and widespread. (5-100) recorded on 7 days.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*: Moderately common and widespread (5-30) recorded on 6 days.

Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indica*: (2) seen well in small town on drive EMS to WWS on 17 May.

Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis*: (5) MP on 12 May all in full breeding plumage with blue-gray head and white eyebrow.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*: (1) near HY on 24 May and (5) on 25 May between HY and R with (2) DL on 26 May: all of the black-backed subspecies *calcarata* that breeds in the Tibetan plateau. A stunning bird.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*: Moderately common and widespread. (1-20) recorded on 7 days.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*: Moderately common and widespread. (1-10) recorded on 14 days.

Blyth's Pipit *Anthus godlewski*: (1) near HY on 25 May with (4) on the same day at the Seventh Bend of the Yellow River.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsonii*: (2) near Long Lake, J on 27 May.

Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus*: (6) at Balan Shan Pass on 23 May in rosy breeding plumage.

Swinhoe's Minivet *Pericrocotus cantonensis*: (2) made an appreciated appearance in a small orchard at a private residence on drive between EMS and WWS. Good scope views of this scarce species.

Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus*: Moderately common and widespread recorded on 10 days with max. (10) WWS on 19 May.

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus*: (1) stunning male at TPK on 12 May.

Collared Finchbill *Spizixos semitorques*: (10) LB (10) Chuan Zhu near EMS on 14 May, (2) Wannian Monastery, EMS on 16 May, (3) Sawan above W 22 May and (6) MQC on 30 May. Lots of good views of this unusual bulbul.

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*: Common in HK

Brown-breasted Bulbul *Pycnonotus xanthorrhous*: (2) on 14 May at Chuan Zhu near EMS was the only sighting of this typically scarce species.

Light-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus sinensis*: Common in HK, Moderately common and widespread in Sichuan recorded on 6 days with max. (20) in CD.

Sooty-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster*: (1) HKWLC on 12 May.

Chestnut Bulbul *Hypsipetes castanonotus*: Heard only at TPK on 12 May.

Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*: Recorded on 5 days with max. (10) Wannian Monastery, EMS on 16 May and (10) at MQC on 30 May. All of the striking white-headed subspecies *leucothorax*.

Tiger Shrike *Lanius tigrinus*: (1) at Sawan, W. on 22 May and (1) in an orchard W of Rilong on 24 May gave a superb view of this typically uncommon and shy species.

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*: (1) MP on 12 May of the grey-crowned subspecies *lucionensis*; a migratory flock of (10) in the gardens at Wolong village on 22 May with (1) near Rilong on 24 May.

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*: Also often called Rufous-tailed Shrike; (1) possibly the same male seen twice mixed in with a migrant flock of Brown Shrikes at Wolong village on 22 May showed the white basal primary patch clearly.

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*: Moderately common and widespread in agricultural country, (1-5) recorded on 6 days.

Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus*: (1-10) recorded on 9 days at higher altitudes in Sichuan.

Chinese Grey Shrike *Lanius sphenocercus*: (1) gave a stunning view perched on roadside wires near HY on 25 May. Always a scarce and elusive species.

White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*: (2) on 26 May between Baxizhen and J and (4) on 28 May in J.



White-throated Dipper—Brad Schram

Brown Dipper *Cinclus pallasii*: (2) on 16 May at Wuxiangang, EMS on 16 May.

Winter Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*: Heard only at Mengbi Shan and J. on 3 days.

Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris*: (2) Balan Shan Pass, 23 May.

Rufous-breasted Accentor *Prunella strophciata*: (4) Golden Summit, EMS on 15 May and (4) Beimuping, W on 23 May with (1) Lama Pass on 26 May.

Maroon-backed Accentor *Prunella immaculata*: (1) scoped at Mengbi Shan on 24 May.

White-tailed Rubythroat *Luscinia pectoralis*: After a bit of patience we relocated a singing male below the Balan Shan Pass on 23 May.

E Firethroat *Luscinia pectardens*: (1) Wuyipeng, W. on both 22 and 23 May gave everyone a view of this Oriental sensation.

Indian Blue Robin *Luscinia brunneus*: Sightings of single males at Wuyipeng, W. on 23 May and J on 27-28 May. Heard on a further 4 days. Always fairly secretive.

Orange-flanked Bush Robin *Tarsiger cyanurus*: (1) 24 May at Mengbi Shan and (1) Long Lake, J on 27 May. Recognised by Rasmussen as **Himalayan Red-flanked Bush-Robin *Tarsiger rufilatus***.

White-browed Bush Robin *Tarsiger indicus*: (1) knockout male at Wuyipeng W on 22 May.

Oriental Magpie Robin *Copsychus saularis*: Moderately common and widespread, (1-20) recorded on 5 days.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*: (10) on both days at Tibetan plateau.

Hodgson's Redstart *Phoenicurus hodgsoni*: (1-5) on 5 days on Tibetan plateau between Rilong and J.

Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis*: (2-4) Long Lake, J on 27-28 May.

Daurian Redstart *Phoenicurus aureus*: (1-4) recorded on 3 days with high count near Rilong on 24 May.

White-throated Redstart *Phoenicurus schisticeps*: (3) Rilong on 24 May with (4) J on 27-28 May included several stunning males.

White-capped Water Redstart *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*: This striking bird was widespread and moderately common recorded on 11 days with a high count of (10) on 24 May on drive from Rilong to HY.

Plumbeous Water Redstart *Rhyacornis fuliginosus*: Moderately common and widespread recorded on 10 days with max. (10) on 4 dates.

White-bellied Redstart *Hodgsonius phoenicuroides*: (1) Primeval Forest, J on 28 May and (1) the next day at Ganhaizi Lake, J. Also heard at WWS.

White-tailed Robin *Myiomela leucura*: Heard only at WWS on 19 May but cryptic.

Little Forktail *Enicurus scouleri*: (2) Wuxiangang, EMS on 16 May and (2) WWS on 20 May.

White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus leschenaulti*: (1) found by John near our EMS hotel on 16 May and a pair successfully twitched in the same location the next day. Good work John!

Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus*: (2) on 14 May along Chuan Zhu near EMS gave several excellent views with more good views on 16 May at Wuxiangang, EMS.

Grey Bushchat *Saxicola ferrea*: (2-6) seen on three days.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*: (1) on 14 May Chuan Zhu, EMS; (2) in gorge country W of Rilong on 24 May with (5) in gorge country on drive from J to Dujianyang.

Blue Whistling Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus*: Moderately common and widespread in Sichuan with (1-10) recorded on 8 days.

Long-tailed Thrush *Zoothera dixonii*: (1) near Pearl Shoals Waterfall, J. on 27 May.

Scaly Thrush *Zoothera dauma*: (1) leader only at Wuyipeng, W. on 22 May.

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*: (10) Wangjiang Park, CD on 13 May with (5) the next day on drive to EMS were of the subspecies *mandarinus*, which is probably better treated as a full species referred to as Chinese Blackbird. (1) near Mengbi Shan on 24 May was not identified to subspecies but may have been of the Tibetan subspecies *maximus*. An unusual sighting.

Chestnut Thrush *Turdus rubrocanus*: Seen on 8 days with max. (10) on 28 May in J. Lots of good views.

Kessler's Thrush *Turdus kessleri*: Seen on 3 days with max. (20) on 25 May between HY and R.

Spot-breasted Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus erythrocnemis*: (2) Chuan Zhu, EMS on 14 May and (2) Wuxiangang, EMS on 16 May gave good views. Recently split as **Black-streaked Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus gravivox***.

Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*: (2) TPK on 12 May gave a great view. Heard at EMS, WWS and MQC.

Scaly-breasted Wren-Babbler *Pnoepyga albiventer*: Singles seen at Wuyipeng, W. on 22-23 May.

Pygmy Wren-Babbler *Pnoepyga pusilla*: Heard at TPK, EMS, WWS and seen poorly at Wuyipeng, W on 23 May.

Rufous-capped Babbler *Stachyris ruficeps*: (4) TPK on 12 May; (5) LB on 14 May and (2) WWS on 19 May.

Chinese Babax *Babax lanceolatus*: (4-6) WWS on 19-20 May gave occasional great views responding to playback.

Red-billed Leiothrix *Leiothrix lutea*: (4-10) daily at EMS gave excellent views of this beautiful species with (5-6) at WWS on 19-20 May.

Silver-eared Mesia *Leiothrix argentauris*: (5) at TPK gave great views of this stunning species.

Blue-winged Minla *Minla cyanuroptera*: (2) in TPK on 12 May.

White-browed Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius flaviscapis*: Heard only at WWS on 18-19 May.

Green Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius xanthochlorus*: (1) at Wuyipeng, W. gave a great view in response to playback on 22 May. A scarce and inconspicuous species.

Golden-breasted Fulvetta *Alcippe chrysolis*: (2-4) daily in dense bamboo at WWS with (2-4) at Wuyipeng, W. on 22-23 May. A beautiful bird.

Streak-throated Fulvetta *Alcippe cinereiceps*: Seen on 4 days including WWS and W.

Dusky Fulvetta *Alcippe brunnea*: (1) taped in at the Wannian Monastery, EMS on 16 May gave a pretty good view but (1) taped in the same day at Wuxiangang, EMS gave an outstanding view of this typically skulking species.

Grey-cheeked Fulvetta *Alcippe morrisonia*: (5) LB and (5) Chuan Zhu Road, EMS on 14 May with (4) Wannian Monastery, EMS on 16 May.

Stripe-throated Yuhina *Yuhina gularis*: (2) WWS-summit on 18 May.

White-collared Yuhina *Yuhina diademata*: Seen on 6 days including (10) Golden Summit, EMS on 16 May, (2-10) WWS on 18-20 May and (2) Wuyipeng, W. on both 22-23 May.



White-collared Yuhinas—Brad Schram

Black-chinned Yuhina *Yuhina nigrimenta*: (4) Wannian Monastery, EMS on 16 May.

Striated Yuhina *Yuhina castaniceps*: (2) LB on 14 May and (2) Wannian Monastery, EMS on 16 May.

Masked Laughingthrush *Garrulax perspicillatus*: (10) MP on 12 May.

E Plain (Pere David's) Laughingthrush *Garrulax davidi*: (4) near HY on 25 May and (2) near Baxizhen on 26 May.

E Barred Laughingthrush *Garrulax lunulatus*: (2) Wuyipeng, W. on 23 May. A good result for this scarce and elusive endemic.

E Giant Laughingthrush *Garrulax maximus*: (4) near Mengbi Shan on 24 May gave a great view.

Spotted Laughingthrush *Garrulax ocellatus*: Heard only at Wuyipeng, W. on 22-23 May.

Rusty Laughingthrush *Garrulax poecilorhynchus*: (2) on 17 May and (3) on 18 May at WWS. The mainland Chinese subspecies *berthemyi* is sometimes split from the Taiwan population. The mainland species is then referred to as Buffy Laughingthrush. A great sighting for me.

Hwamei *Garrulax canorus*: (1) 16 May at Wannian Monastery came in twice but was generally pretty skulky.

White-browed Laughingthrush *Garrulax sannio*: Recorded on 4 days with max. (20) CDPBC on 20 May.

E Elliot's Laughingthrush *Garrulax elliotii*: Moderately common and widespread in Sichuan at higher elevations, (4-10) recorded on 9 days.

Black-faced Laughingthrush *Garrulax affinis*: (2) WWS summit, on 18 May.

Red-winged Laughingthrush *Garrulax formosus*: (3) seen by Dion and heard by all in dense bamboo at WWS on 19-20May.

E Sukatshev's (Snowy-cheeked) Laughingthrush *Garrulax sukatschewi*: (2) near Long Lake, J. on 28 May.

E Emei Shan Liocichla *Liocichla omeiensis*: (1-3) seen daily at WWS allowing all a good view of this skulker.

Great Parrotbill *Conostoma oemodium*: (1) Wuyipeng, W. on 22 May with (2) on 23 May gave sensational views.

Ashy-throated Parrotbill *Paradoxornis alphonsianus*: (3-5) on three days EMS and on drive to WWS.

Vinous-throated Parrotbill *Paradoxornis webbianus*: (10) Wangjiang Park, CD on 13 May, (10) CDPBC on 20 May and (5) MQC on 30 May.



Vinous-throated Parrotbill—Brad Schram

E Grey-hooded Parrotbill *Paradoxornis zappeyi*: (3) at summit of WWS. Great views of this local and scarce Chinese endemic.

Fulvous Parrotbill *Paradoxornis fulvifrons*: (2) WWS on 18 May gave excellent views of this incredibly delightful and elusive species including nest building.

Golden Parrotbill *Paradoxornis verreauxi*: (6) on 19 May at WWS in roadside bamboo was a great sighting.

Chestnut-headed Tesia *Tesia castaneocoronata*: (2) at Wuyipeng, W. on 22 May taped in well and gave a great view.

Brown-flanked Bush Warbler *Cettia fortipes*: (1) taped in on 17 May between EMS and WWS with (1) at WWS on 19 May. Heard on a further 7 days.

Aberrant Bush Warbler *Cettia flavolivacea*: (3) WWS on 18 May on summit.

Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler *Cettia acanthizoides*: (1) at Primeval Forest, J was very responsive on 28 May. Heard on 4 days.

Grey-sided Bush Warbler *Cettia brunnifrons*: Heard only in blizzard like conditions at Golden Summit, EMS on 15 May.

Spotted Bush Warbler *Bradypterus thoracicus*: (1) WWS gave great views in response to playback on 18 May. Subspecies *davidi*. Also heard in J on two days.

Russet Bush Warbler *Bradypterus seebohmi*: Heard only in secondary bamboo-garden scrub on drive from EMS to WWS on 17 May but refused to pop up despite a lengthy effort.

Tickell's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus affinis*: (1) summit of WWS on 18 May and (1) Lama Pass on 26 May.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*: (1) on 24 May in orchard W of Rilong; heard on two other dates. Subspecies *weigoldicus*.

Yellow-streaked Warbler *Phylloscopus armandii*: Best views of (2) in J on both 28-29 May where quite responsive to playback.

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*: (1) Wangjiang Park, CD on 13 May was a migrant that gave a great view necessary for ID of this subtle bird.

Hume's Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*: Seen on 2 days in J and Mengbi Shan. Birds in this area of the population *mandelli*. Often heard.

Buff-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus pulcher*: Seen on 7 days with max. (8) on 15 May at Golden Summit, EMS.

Lemon-rumped Warbler *Phylloscopus chloronotus*: Seen on 7 days, a common leaf warbler in high altitude coniferous forests. This subspecies is sometimes split as **Sichuan Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus forresti***.

Large-billed Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus magnirostris*: Seen on 5 days with max. (6) WWS on 19 May; heard on a further 5 days.

E Emei Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus emeiensis*: (1) singing and seen well at WWS on 17 May taped in by playing its distinctive trill song. A rare leaf warbler, it was heard on the 2 other days at WWS.

Chinese Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus yunnanensis*: This was remedied at Pearl Shoal Waterfall, J. where (1-2) were very responsive and showed well. Also heard at our J. hotel. Note the change in scientific name from *sichuanensis*.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*: (2) CDPBC on 20 May was our only sighting.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*: (4) Golden Summit, EMS on 15 May, (5) on summit of WWS on 18 May; (1-4) daily in high altitude forests in J and Mengbi Shan.

Blyth's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides*: Seen on 6 days especially common at WWS. This subspecies is now split as **Claudia's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus claudiae***.

White-tailed Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus davisoni*: (1) WWS on 18 May. This subspecies is now split as **Kloss's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus ogilviegranti disturbans***.

Sulphur-breasted Warbler *Phylloscopus ricketti*: (3) Wannian Monastery and Wuxiangang, EMS on 16 May and (2) on 30 May at MQC. Excellent views of this scarce species.

Bianchi's Warbler *Seicercus valentini*: (1) Golden Summit, EMS on 15 May, (2) on both days up at Wuyipeng, W in boreal forest zone, (1-2) in higher altitude forests at J 27-28 May.

Grey-faced Warbler *Seicercus tephrocephalus*: (1-2) WWS on 17-19 May typically secretive, with (2) Wuyipeng and Sawan, W. on 22 May. The birds we observed have been split as **Marten's Warbler *Seicercus omeiensis***.

Plain-tailed Warbler *Seicercus soror*: (1) Leshan Buddha on 14 May was our only sighting of this secretive *Seicercus*.

Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps*: (1-2) WWS on 17-19 May.

Rufous-faced Warbler *Abroscopus albogularis*: (4) including nest-building at LB on 14 May. Carrying ridiculously large bamboo leaves helped people spot these inconspicuous little birds. Also (1) CDPBC on 20 May and heard on both days at EMS.

Crested Tit-Warbler *Leptopoecile elegans*: (1) Gong Gan Lin, J. on 29 May.

Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*: (1) TPK on 12 May.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*: (2) Mengbi Shan on 24 May and (4) Gong Gan Lin, J on 29 May showing even the gold crest!

Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris*: (20) MP on 12 May.

Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata*: (3) MP on 12 May.

Dark-sided Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica*: (4) WWS on 19 May, (1) on 21 May at Wolong Village and (1) Gong Gan Lin on 29 May.

Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa latirostris*: (1) in roadside village orchard between EMS and WWS on 17 May.

Ferruginous Flycatcher *Muscicapa ferruginea*: (2) Wuyipeng, W. on 21 May.

Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassina*: (2-6) daily WWS on 17-20 May.

Yellow-rumped Flycatcher *Ficedula zanthopygia*: (1) male seen beautifully at LB on 14 May.

Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophciata*: Seen on 4 days with max. (2) Wuyipeng, W on 21-22 May.

Slaty-backed Flycatcher *Ficedula hodgsoni*: (2-10) daily in high altitude forests in J.

Slaty-blue Flycatcher *Ficedula tricolor*: (1) female at Golden Summit, EMS on 15 May and (1) female at WWS on 18 May.

Fujian Niltava *Niltava davidi*: (1) stunning male showed well at WWS on 19 May.

Vivid Niltava *Niltava vivida*: (1) male found by Brad at summit of WWS on 18 May.

Rufous-bellied Niltava *Niltava sundara*: (1) Wuyipeng, W. on 22 May.

Hainan Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis hainana*: (1) male at TPK on 12 May showed very well.

Chinese Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis glaucicomans*: (1) fabulous singing male at Wannian Monastery, EMS on 17 May. Heard also at WWS on 18-19 May- a truly beautiful song. This is split from **Blue-throated Flycatcher *Cyornis rubeculoides***.

Asian Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi*: (1) stunning rufous morph male at CDPBC on 20 May.

Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*: Recorded on 10 days with max. (2) LB on 14 May.

Black-throated Tit *Aegithalos concinnus*: Recorded on 4 days with max. (20) in CD on 13 May.

Fire-capped Tit *Cephalopyrus flammiceps*: (1) male at WWS on 19 May with (2) males at Wuyipeng on 22 May.

Hume's Groundpecker *Pseudopodoces humilis*: (20) on drive between HY and R with (20) the next day east of R and north to DL. Formerly classified in with the Corvidae family (crows and allies) recent DNA assessment has placed it in the Paridae family (tits).

Songar Tit *Parus songarus*: (2) between Baxizhen and J on 26 May and (3) near Long Lake, J on 27 May. Subspecies *weigoldicus*.

E Rusty-breasted (Pere David's) Tit *Parus davidi*: (2) Pearl Shoal Waterfall, J. on 27 May.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*: Recorded on 4 days in high altitude coniferous forest with max. (6) on 18 May at summit of WWS.

E Yellow-bellied Tit *Parus venustus*: Recorded on 6 days with max. (6) at Wannian Monastery, EMS on 16 May.

Grey-crested Tit *Parus dichrous*: Recorded on 5 days with max. (3) Pearl Shoal Waterfall, J. on 27 May.

Great Tit *Parus major*: Recorded on 8 days with max. (10) at both Wangjiang Park, CD on 13 May.

Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus*: Moderately common and widespread in forests at mid elevations. (2-10) recorded on 10 days.

Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus*: (1) Golden Summit, EMS on 15 May and (2) in mixed flock at Wuyipeng, W. on 22 May.

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis*: (4) at TPK on 12 May gave a great view.

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europea*: (4) WWS on 19 May with (2) Wuyipeng, W. on 22 May and (3) including at a nest Pearl Shoal Waterfall, J. on 27 May.

Chinese Nuthatch *Sitta villosa*: (4) Pearl Shoal Waterfall, J on 27 May and (2) Ganhaizi Lake, J on 29 May.

Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria*: (2) at a nest feeding chicks in gorge country W of Rilong on 24 May gave superb views with (1) at Lama Pass flying past with a Lammergeier in the background on 26 May. Quite extraordinary!



Wallcreeper (female)—Brad Schram

E Sichuan Treecreeper *Certhia tianquanensis*: (2) on 18 May at summit of WWS in old growth Fir forest. Enjoyed excellent views of this recently discovered and described species.

Eurasian Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*: (1) Gong Gan Lin, J. on 29 May. Split by some authorities as **Hodgson's Treecreeper *Certhia khamensis***.

Bar-tailed Treecreeper *Certhia himalayana*: (2) Pearl Shoal Waterfall, J on 27 May.

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum*: Heard only at TPK on 12 May.

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus*: (2) at our hotel in EMS on both 14 and 16 May with (2) MQC on 30 May.

Mrs. Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae*: (2-6) WWS on 18-20 May, (2) Wuyipeng, W. on 22 May, included many stunning males.

Fork-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga christinae*: (4) TPK on 12 May and (2) in flowering mistletoe near our hotel at EMS on 14 May.

Japanese White-eye *Zosterops japonica*: Abundant at TPK on 12 May with smaller numbers at EMS, WWS and MQC.

Chestnut-flanked White-eye *Zosterops erythropleura*: (1) WWS on 18 May, (2) Wuyipeng, W. on 22 May, (1) Pearl Shoal Waterfall, J on 27 May and (2) near Long Lake, J on 29 May.

Godlewski's Bunting *Emberiza godlewskii*: (3) in gorge country on 29 May between J and Dujianyang.

E Slaty Bunting *Latoucheornis siemsseni*: (2) male and female gave a superb view near Pearl Shoal Waterfall, J on 27 May.

Tibetan Siskin *Carduelis thibetana*: (2) near Long Lake, J gave a superb view with (4) the next day at Ganhaizi Lake on 29 May.

Grey-capped Greenfinch *Carduelis sinica*: (1-2) seen on 4 days mostly in agricultural areas between D-EMS and WWS.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*: (20) on 25 May between HY and R.

Plain Mountain Finch *Leucosticte nemoricola*: (20) at Balan Shan Pass, W. on 23 May.

Blanford's Rosefinch *Carpodacus rubescens*: (1) at summit of WWS on 18 May.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*: (4) on 24 May feeding on catkins as we approached Mengbi Shan.

E Pink-rumped Rosefinch *Carpodacus eos*: (1) female on 24 May and (1) female on 25 May identified by the diagnostic greenfinch like "pitrir" contact calls that are the best key feature to separate from Beautiful Rosefinch.

Vinaceous Rosefinch *Carpodacus vinaceus*: (4) stunning males at summit of WWS on 18 May.

Dark-rumped Rosefinch *Carpodacus edwardsii*: (1) female at Wuyipeng on 22 May.

White-browed Rosefinch *Carpodacus thura*: (2) Long Lake, J on 28 May and (2) Gong Gan Lin on 29 May gave superb views. Marked plumage, structural and vocal differences result in a split from the Himalayan subspecies now referred to as **Chinese White-browed Rosefinch *Carpodacus dubius***.

E Three-banded Rosefinch *Carpodacus trifasciatus*: (1) near Long Lake, J on 28 May and (2) Gong Gan Lin on 29 May gave great views of this scarce Chinese endemic.

Long-tailed Rosefinch *Uragus sibirica*: (1) female at Jilong 40 km W Balan Shan on 24 May showing white outer tail feathers, stubby bill and wing bars. Subspecies *henrici*.

Tibetan Snowfinch *Montifringilla adamsi*: (1) at a nest near the Seventh Bend of the Yellow River on 25 May took a bit of patient waiting in cold conditions before it reappeared to feed its chicks on the second occasion.

White-rumped Snowfinch *Pyrgilauda taczanowskii*: (10) nesting in pika burrows near DL on 26 May.

Grey-headed Bullfinch *Pyrrhula erythaca*: Recorded on 6 days with max. (4) on 27 May in J near Pearl Shoal Waterfall. A stunning bird.

Yellow-billed Grosbeak *Eophona migratoria*: (2) Wangjiang Park, CD on 13 May and (2) in an orchard between EMS and WWS.

Collared Grosbeak *Mycerobas affinis*: (2) watched mating at summit of WWS on 18 May. (3) near Pearl Shoal Waterfall, J. Great views of this stunner.

White-winged Grosbeak *Mycerobas carripes*: (20) on 27 May on drive between R and J. with (2-3) near Long Lake, J on 28 May AND Gong Gan Lin on 29 May.

White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata*: (5) at Wangjiang Park, CD on 13 May and (2) LB on 14 May.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*: (10) MP on 12 May.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*: Moderately common and widespread.

Russet Sparrow *Passer rutilans*: (2) Chuan Zhu, EMS on 14 May.

Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia*: (10) on 25 May near Yellow River.

Purple-backed Starling *Sturnus sturninus*: (1) adult male migrant was a good record at Wangjiang Park, CD on 13 May; only my second Sichuan sighting.

Red-billed Starling *Sturnus sericeus*: (1) in flight over Wangjiang Park, CD on 13 May was missed by most but everyone was able to see a nesting pair near MQC on 30 May.

White-shouldered Starling *Sturnus sinensis*: (4) at HKWLC and MP on 12 May.

Black-collared Starling *Sturnus nigricollis*: (20) in HK mostly near our hotel in Shatin on 12 May.

Crested Myna *Acridotheres cristatellus*: Recorded on 4 days with max. (10) in HK on 12 May.

Black Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis*: (4) MP and TBT in HK on 12 May with (4) on 29 May.

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*: (1) of the white-eared subspecies *salangensis* near Long Lake, J on 27 May.

Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentotus*: Recorded on 6 days with max. (10) at LB on 14 May and an unusual sighting of (1) near Baxizhen on 26 May.

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*: (2) LB on 14 May and (1-2) WWS on 17-18 May.

E Sichuan Jay *Perisoreus infaustus*: (2) Mengbi Shan gave a great repeated view as they perched conspicuously and mobbed a Eurasian Sparrowhawk on 24 May. A scarce and shy species.

Red-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*: (1-10) recorded on 7 days.

Azure-winged Magpie *Cyanopica cyana*: (10) MP on 12 May with (10) near HY on 25 May.

Black-billed Magpie *Pica pica*: (4) MP on 12 May. Tibetan subspecies *bottae* between HY and R on both 25 May.

Spotted Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes*: (2) summit of WWS on 18 May, (2) Wuyipeng, W. on 23 May and (2) Long Lake, J on 27 May.

Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax*: Recorded on 3 days with max. (50) in gorge country between Rilong and Maerkang on 24 May.

Daurian Jackdaw *Corvus dauricus*: (3) on 25 May on Tibetan plateau near HY was a good result for this species.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*: Recorded on 5 days with max. (10) on 26 May on eastern edge of Tibetan plateau near Baxizhen.

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*: Recorded on 7 days with max. (4) at J on 28 May.

Collared Crow *Corvus torquatus*: (2) HKWLC on 12 May and (1) Reed Lake, J on 27 May.

Common Raven *Corvus corax*: (10-20) in Tibetan plateau grasslands on 25-26 May.

MAMMALS

Golden Snubnose Monkey *Pygathrix roxellana*: Heard only in the distance at Wuyipeng, W. on 23 May where a sound recording was confirmed as this species by park workers.

Shrew sp: (1) spotlight at WWS on 19 May gave a great view.

Javan Mongoose *Herpestes javanicus*: (1) MP on 1 May seen by John and Dion.

Yellow-throated Marten *Martes flavigula*: (1) J on 27 May seen by Brad.

Pallas's Squirrel *Callosciurus erythraeus*: (1) Chuan Zhu, EMS on 14 May and (2) MQC on 30 May.

Perny's Long-nosed Squirrel *Dremomys pernyi*: (1) gave a good view in a bamboo plantation whilst trying to lure out a Russet Bush-Warbler between EMS and WWS on 17 May.

Pere David's Rock Squirrel *Sciurotamias davidianus*: (1) WWS on 18 May and (1) 23 May at Wuyipeng, W. where it was attracted to kitchen scraps.

Chinese Giant Flying Squirrel *Petaurista xanthotis*: (2) a female and large juvenile were found whilst spotlighting at WWS on 19 May gave a superb view and photographic opportunity.



Chinese Giant Flying Squirrels—B. Schram

Siberian Weasel *Mustela siberica*: (1) Wuyipeng, W. on 23 May ran down the trail straight toward the group and then did an abrupt u-turn.

Wild Boar *Sus scrofa*: (2) gave a great scope view foraging on an opposite hill-side clearing at Rilong on 24 May.

Tufted Deer *Elaphodus cephalophus*: (1) gave a great view on 17 May at WWS where we could see the white ear linings and antlers. Bart saw (1) the next day nearby.

Siberian Chipmunk *Tamias sibiricus*: (5) at Primeval Forest, J on 28 May.

Himalayan Marmot *Marmota himalayana*: At least (20) on drive between HY and R on 25 May with (1) the next day.

Wawu Shan Wood Rat *Leopoldamys edwardsi*: (1) WWS on 17-19 May—a striking native rodent.

Woolly Hare *Lepus oiostolus*: (3) on 25 May in eastern Tibetan plateau between HY and R.

Cape Hare *Lepus capensis*: (1) WWS on 17 May.

Black-lipped Pika *Ochotona curzoniae*: (10) plus on 26 May between HY and Yellow River and maybe a (1000) near DL on 26 May attracting many raptors even gulls to feed on the booming population.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Keeled Rat Snake *Elaphe carinata*: (2) found at WWS on 19 May; one in the day basking on the roadside edge and (1) whilst spotlighting at night allowing good photographic opportunities of this harmless species.

Keelback sp. *Amphiesma* sp.: (1) found alive but fatally injured by a vehicle between EMS and WWS on 17 May.

Chinese Toad *Bufo melanostictus*: (1) Wuyipeng, W. on 23 May.

Emei Shan Tree Frog *Polypedates emeimontis*: (1) on a rock in a torrent at WWS near the base on 17 May was photographed.

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Over 300 Species!—Betsy Bachman