



A stunning male Temminck's Tragopan (Summer Wong)

SICHUAN INCLUDING NORTHERN YUNNAN

16/19 MAY – 7 JUNE 2017

LEADERS: CRAIG ROBSON and SUMMER WONG

Rugged Western China, with its stunning, breathtaking scenery, really is a treasure trove of awesome Sino-Himalayan avian marvels. Our latest trip to western Sichuan, with a pre-tour extension to NW Yunnan, was another great adventure, with a non-stop inflow of truly superb birds. Some of the numerous highlights, amongst the nearly 350 species recorded, were 15 species of Galliform, including Temminck's Tragopan, Chinese Monal, White Eared, Blue Eared, Golden and Lady Amherst's Pheasants, Black-necked Crane, Black-tailed Crake, Saker Falcon, Collared Crow, Fire-capped, White-browed, Pere David's, Black-bibbed, Sichuan, and Ground Tits, Tibetan Lark, Chinese Wren-babbler (or Cupwing), Sooty Bushtit, White-browed and Crested Tit-Warblers, 23 species of *Phylloscopus* and *Seicercus* warblers, 36 species of babbler (excluding parrotbills), including Golden-fronted, Chinese, Spectacled and Grey-hooded Fulvettas, Snowy-cheeked, Barred, White-speckled, Giant and Red-winged Laughingthrushes, Emei Shan Liocichla, Rufous-

tailed Babbler, 11 species of parrotbill, including Three-toed, Spectacled, Ashy-throated, Brown-winged, Grey-hooded, Przevalski's and Golden, Yunnan, Chinese and Przevalski's Nuthatches, Wallcreeper, Sichuan Treecreeper, Sichuan (split from Plain-backed), Kessler's and Chinese Thrushes, Grandala, Chinese (split from Himalayan) and Siberian Rubythroats, Firethroat, Black-winged, White-rumped and Red-necked Snowfinches, Robin Accentor, Przevalski's Finch, Chinese Grosbeak, Streaked, Pink-rumped, Sharpe's, Three-banded, Chinese White-browed and Red-fronted Rosefinches, and Slaty Bunting. Our mammal tally was also exceptional, with our total of 24 species including Tibetan Fox, Grey Wolf, Tufted, Thorold's and Eastern (or Siberian) Roe Deer, Takin, Bharal and Chinese Goral.



Black-browed Bushtit (Craig Robson)

Our journey commenced at Lijiang in north-west Yunnan, where we all met up with our excellent local guide Summer Wong. we had two and a half days to explore a range of habitats and terrain. Our efforts focused-in on a small number of regional specialities, with the rare White-speckled (or Biet's) Laughingthrush at the top of our target list. Its numbers much depleted locally by bird-trappers, and its best areas of habitat inaccessible or possibly still unknown, it was going to be a tough call. The weather was not great either, with continuous rain on the day before the tour began. On our third morning of searching however, we finally located a calling individual, and succeed in getting some excellent close range views as it moved backwards and forwards overhead. Much of the forest in the area is dense and secondary in nature, but we found the bird in a somewhat more mature patch of woodland, making it easier to observe. A very nice selection of back-up species in these well-wooded ranges included Common Pheasant, lots of dazzled Grey Nightjars, the very dark-looking *stresemanni* form of Great Spotted Woodpecker, Spotted Nutcracker, the highly localised Black-bibbed Tit, Crested Finchbill, Brown-breasted Bulbul, Black-browed Bushtit, Buff-throated Warbler, Blyth's, Davison's and Sichuan Leaf Warblers, Grey-crowned, Bianchi's and Martens's Warblers, Black-streaked and Streak-breasted Scimitar Babblers, Rusty-capped and Yunnan Fulvettas, Chinese Babax, Elliot's and Black-faced Laughingthrushes, Bar-throated Minla, Black-headed Sibia, Rufous-tailed

Babbler and Spectacled Fulvetta (both localised Chinese endemics), White-browed Fulvetta, White-collared and Rufous-vented Yuhinas (the latter a tour write-in), Grey-winged Blackbird, Daurian Redstart, Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush, numerous beautiful red-breasted *dabryii* Mrs. Gould's Sunbirds, Sharpe's and Vinaceous Rosefinches, Black-headed Greenfinch, and Godlewski's and lovely Yellow-throated Buntings. On our second afternoon, while we were waiting to have lunch prepared in a small rural village, we found a small stream and some pools. It looked like good habitat for Black-tailed Crake, and some brief experimental trawling soon brought a very indignant male charging down the small valley towards us, completely fearless! It didn't take long for him to realize that we were not crakes however, and with his partner they skulked back to their feeding area.



White-collared Yuhina (Craig Robson)

Closer to Lijiang itself, we spent a bit of time exploring the perimeter of Yuquan Park. Walking the edge of some nice-looking pine forest, it didn't take long to detect the nasal tones of the near-endemic Yunnan Nuthatch, which came right in above our heads for close views. Further to the north-west, we ventured as far as Shigu, which is described as being on the first bend of the Yangtze River. A well-known site for the restricted range Brown-winged Parrotbill, we actually managed to find a pair collecting nest material this year. There was not much else of note at the site, apart from good numbers of Russet Sparrows and Scaly-breasted Munias however.

Before our return to Chengdu, we had time for a couple of hours at Lake Caohai to the south-west of the airport. An excellent wetland area with a wide-range of breeding waterfowl, egrets and herons. There were a surprisingly large number of Eastern Spot-billed and Ferruginous Ducks, the former with small chicks, as well as a busy large waterbird colony with four egret species and Black-crowned Night Heron. A single Grey-headed Lapwing was an unexpected bonus, and we also enjoyed several Asian Openbills, Yellow and Cinnamon Bitterns, lots of Grey-headed Swamphens, Red-billed Starlings, and many Oriental Reed Warblers.

A short flight found us back in Chengdu, where we met up with the rest of the group at our hotel, for the start of the main tour.



Black-tailed Crake (Craig Robson)

The following day was largely a travel day, but we started off by visiting a couple of parks in the city. At People's Park, we found a small number of White-cheeked Starlings, as well as some confiding White-browed Laughingthrushes, Vinous-throated Parrotbills and Chinese Blackbirds. Our local guide Summer then took us to Huanhuaxi Park, where we met a contact of hers who soon showed us some very nice Chinese Grosbeaks feeding on mulberries. Also new for us here was Rufous-faced Warbler, and there were more Red-billed Starlings and Vinous-throated Parrotbills.

Following a series of impressive modern roads (something we would see a lot of in Sichuan), we arrived at our comfortable accommodation at Tangjiahe in the late afternoon. Rain prevented much birding on arrival, but near the entrance we managed to find a singing Eastern Crowned Warbler, and our first Yellow-bellied Tit and Brown Dipper.



Despite their appearance, Takin can be aggressive (Summer Wong)



A surprisingly confiding Barred Laughingthrush (Summer Wong)

Tangjiahe National Nature Reserve is a truly stunning area, and well-known for its plentiful wildlife, particularly the amazing Takin - which we saw very easily on multiple occasions, as well as Chinese Goral and Tufted Deer. Perhaps our main reason for visiting this remote site however, is a chance to see the super-rare and little known Przevalski's (or Rusty-throated) Parrotbill. Most of our group decided to go for it, but this proved to be a tough walk, though we were successful in finding the parrotbill, thanks to our experienced local guide. There were some other excellent highlights along the trail too, including five amazing Golden Pheasants, outstanding views of a singing Barred Laughingthrush, nice looks at Great and Spectacled Parrotbills, and briefer views of Baikal Bush Warbler, Emei Leaf Warbler, Long-tailed Thrush and Golden Bush Robin. We were extremely lucky with the weather. Rain had been forecast for the entire day but, although we had low cloud, the rain held-off for us, away from the highest levels. The following morning, before leaving the reserve, there was yet more rain, but that didn't stop us from getting some great views of our first Slaty Buntings, which were extremely tame.



Pere David's Tit is a scarce restricted-range endemic (Craig Robson)

From Tangjiahe, we made our way over impressive mountain passes to the tourist haven of Jiuzhaigou, our base for the next three nights. We had time for a birding stop at lofty Huangtuliang Pass. Despite the fact that it was threatening to snow, we notched up a nice selection of high-level species, including Kessler's and Chestnut Thrushes, a very obliging Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler, Alpine and Yellow-streaked Warblers, Rosy Pipit, Rufous-breasted Accentor, and a nice male Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch. Some noisy Verreaux's Monal-Partridges refused to be tempted out.



Stunning scenery at Jiuzhaigou (Craig Robson)

Jiuzhaigou Natural Reserve is understandably well known for its stunning scenery, and we were as impressed as the thousands of tourists, complete with selfie sticks, that we jostled with at the park entrance. Fortunately, we had our own private bus, so once inside the reserve we actually encountered very few people. Our first port of call was the Kezegou Valley, which for decades was 'the' site to see the near-mythical Rufous-headed Robin on its breeding grounds. Unfortunately, for the second year running, it seems that no birds were present. Craig recalled that, when he visited the site in the mid 1980's, the understorey was much sparser in this valley. In fact, large parts of the reserve are much more overgrown than they were back then, as the forests have re-generated and become generally less disturbed following the days of logging and general exploitation. These changes in understorey composition, which in the case of the robin were somewhat more open (from memory), are likely affecting the populations of a number of species. After lunch, we followed an excellent boardwalk around Arrow Bamboo and Panda Lakes. Although we couldn't find the robin, there were plenty of other really good birds to get excited about, and we notched-up Common Pheasant, the excellent Père David's Tit, Grey-crested and Rufous-vented Tits, Chinese Wren-babbler (split from Scaly-breasted), a very obliging Chestnut-headed Tesia, cheeky Sooty Bushtits with their fledged young, a bewildering variety of *Phylloscopus* warblers, with Buff-barred, Chinese Leaf, Hume's Leaf, Greenish, Large-billed Leaf, Eastern Crowned, Claudia's, and Sichuan Leaf, Eurasian and Chinese Nuthatches, Hodgson's and Bar-tailed Treecreepers, Indian Blue Robin, Himalayan Bluetail, Slaty-backed Flycatcher, Maroon-backed Accentor, Grey-headed Bullfinch, Dark-breasted and Vinaceous Rosefinches, and Tibetan Serin. Mammals were in evidence too. The distinctive Pere David's Rock Squirrel was tame alongside the boardwalk and, scanning the upper slopes towards evening, we spotted 30 Takin and a single Bharal (or Blue Sheep).



A cracking Sooty Bushtit (Summer Wong)

On our second day based at Jiuzhaigou, we explored a couple of new areas. First, we tried Baihe Nature Reserve to the east, but soon realized that access was going to present some issues. Whilst in the entrance area however, we were lucky enough to see a Blunt-winged Warbler, two excellent Tufted Deer, and a fantastic Yellow Lady's-slipper orchid. Moving on, we returned to the Huangtuliang Pass, where we spent much of the day. This time we managed to get our first looks at Verreaux's Monal-Partridge, as well as great views of Blood Pheasant and Giant Laughingthrush. Our only Chinese Thrush of the tour was scoped singing from a tall tree, and we also enjoyed Yellow-bellied Bush and Yellow-streaked Warblers, Black-faced Laughingthrush, our first Grey-hooded Fulvetta, White-throated and Blue-fronted Redstarts, White-winged Grosbeak, Vinaceous Rosefinch, and Tibetan Serin.



Singing male Siberian Rubythroat (Summer Wong)

Leaving Jiuzhaigou behind, we headed for Ruergai and the Tibetan Plateau, with stops en route. Our first port of call was the Gongangling Pass area. With an early morning surge in activity, the tall coniferous forest here yielded a fantastic pair of Przevalski's Nuthatches and a pair of amazing little Crested Tit-Warblers. Our first Blue Eared Pheasants were scoped in the distance, and low scrub on the more open slopes produced White-browed Tit-Warbler and stunning Siberian Rubythroats which were on territory and singing. Other good birds included Himalayan Vulture, Golden Eagle, Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Himalayan Buzzard, Alpine Leaf Warbler, Goldcrest, Kessler's Thrush, Maroon-backed Accentor, and some very colourful Chinese White-browed Rosefinches.

Stopping for a roadside field-lunch, we noted Red-billed Chough and a nice Twite. We made it to the Ruergai area in good time, so we headed straight for Baxi Forest, to the east of town. Exploring an open

conifer-clad valley, with scrubby borders, we were soon getting some very good views of the often rather skulking Snowy-cheeked (or Sukatschev's) Laughingthrush. The rather more sombre but nonetheless very interesting *concolor* form of Plain (or Pere David's) Laughingthrush was common and easily seen in places, as were a nice pair of angry-looking Chinese Fulvettas, and a large number of proud Kessler's Thrushes bounding around the settlements collecting food. Common Pheasants were calling everywhere, and we got better scope views of Blue Eared Pheasant. After breakfast early the following morning, at a nearby area, we had a Black Woodpecker, a very responsive pair of Sichuan Tits (split from Willow Tit), and Godlewski's Bunting. Returning to the forested valleys, we flushed our first Chinese Grouse, but they all escaped before giving good views. Blue Eared Pheasants were even closer, several White-bellied Redstarts and more singing Siberian Rubythroats performed, and we also saw Rufous-vented Tit, lots of Yellow-streaked Warblers, more Snowy-cheeked and Giant Laughingthrushes, and our first Collared Grosbeak of the tour.

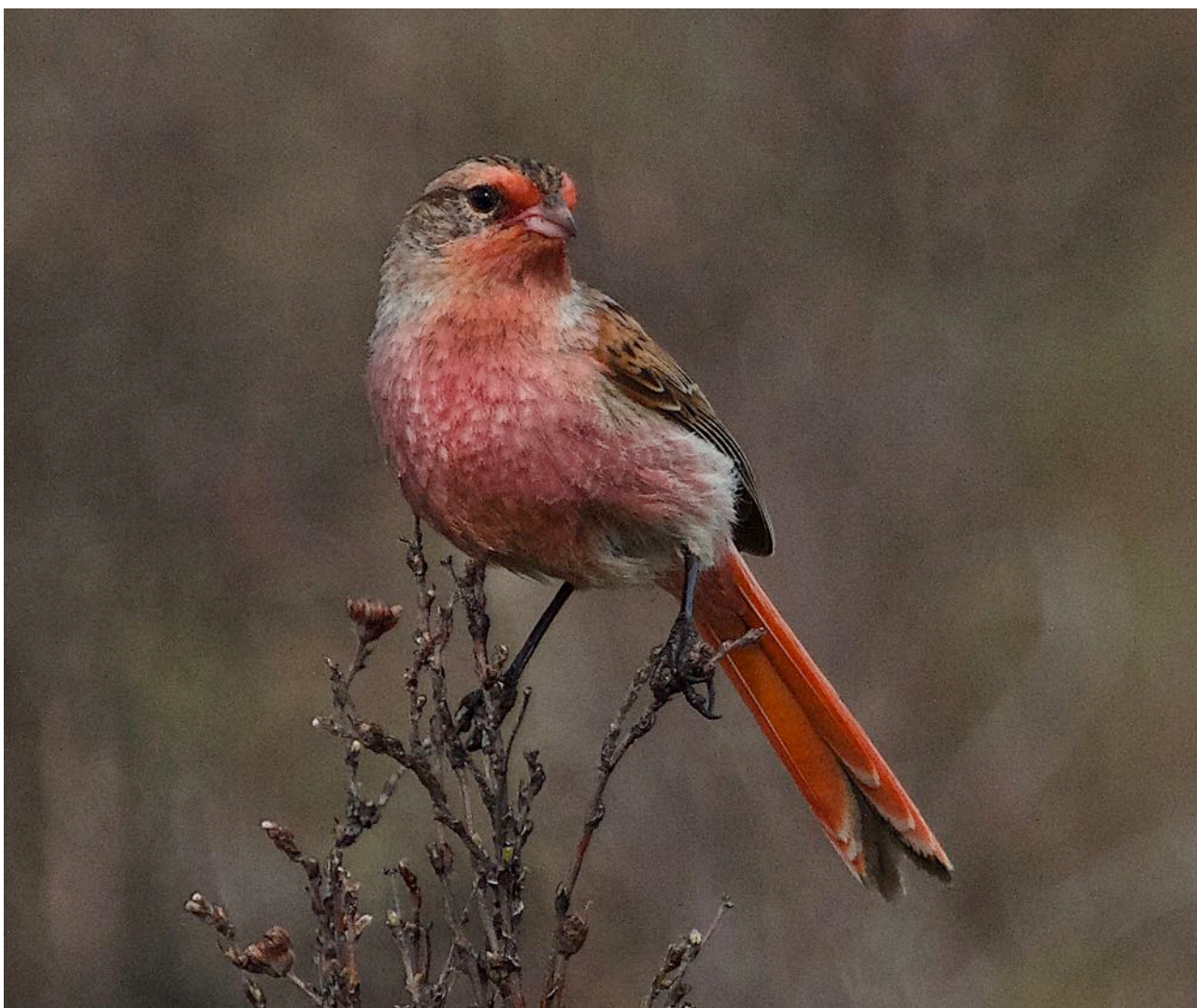


White-rumped Snowfinch (Craig Robson)

After lunch, we ventured out to the Wild Flower Lake area, on the Tibetan Plateau to the north of Ruergai. What a contrast it was to the forested areas that we visited earlier in the day. A vast open short-grass plain with distant shimmering lakes. We managed to dodge an extremely heavy downpour, before taking a nice walk across the plateau. Black-lipped (or Plateau) Pikas of various shapes, sizes and ages were everywhere, as were seemingly attendant White-rumped Snowfinches, while the amazing Ground Tit and smart Red-necked Snowfinch took a bit more scanning. A superb Saker Falcon swooped and bombed overhead, and a damp hummocky area delivered the expected Tibetan (or Long-billed Calandra) Lark. A number of stately Black-necked Cranes were seen on the ground and in flight, and there were lots of Ruddy Shelducks. Scanning a distant lake, we noted Red-crested Pochard, Common Redshank, Brown-headed Gull, and Common Tern. A couple of snub-faced Tibetan Foxes, roaming around the domestic Yaks,

rounded things off nicely. Along the roadsides there were several impressive Upland Buzzards, and a Black (or Black-eared) Kite on its huge messy nest.

We left before dawn the following day and drove east to the Gouwa Forest area, where we spent the whole day. This was a very attractive and quite well-forested spot, with a lofty high pass looming above it, where we enjoyed a hallmark field-lunch of self-heating rice! We had been blessed with a beautiful sunny day again and, from the highest point of the road, we had a superb view of the mighty Min Shan range spanning the distant horizon. A nice trail meandered down through tall coniferous forest, following a small stream. We had several different sightings of Chinese Grouse here, with everyone finally getting satisfactory views, and we were also lucky enough to see a pair of Eurasian Three-toed Woodpeckers at their nest-hole. We got our best-yet views of Verreaux's Monal-Partridges, yet more Blood Pheasants, a Bearded Vulture (or Lammergeier) up near the pass, Golden Eagle, another male Crested Tit-Warbler, Eurasian Wren, Hodgson's Treecreeper, and a couple of Long-tailed Thrushes. A fantastic Blue Eared Pheasant hopped-up right next to the road as we left. On the plateau near Ruergai, we added our first Azure-winged Magpies in some willow bushes, and a pair of Daurian Jackdaws that appeared to be nesting in the top of a utility pole.



The remarkable Przevalski's Finch (Craig Robson)

Leaving Ruergai behind, we headed south, making a series of strategic stops as we went. The roadside early on produced a very confiding pair of Black-winged (or Tibetan) Snowfinches that had been mobbing a Little Owl, and a few Rock Sparrows. Suddenly, there were two Grey Wolves right next to us, and we had great views as they casually sauntered off. Then we spotted a couple of Eastern (or Siberian) Roe Deer sparring on some roadside slopes, a tour write-in. The habitat here looked excellent for most of our target

birds so we ate a quick field breakfast and then explored the area. It proved to be a superb spot, bringing us Tibetan Partridge, White-browed Tit, *robustus* Dusky Warblers, Robin Accentor, and the stunning Przevalski's Finch. There was also a pair of Ground Tits feeding their cute fledged young, and a lovely singing male Common Rosefinch, as well as an attractive array of alpine flowers. Another lengthy stop brought great close-ups of a pair of beautiful White-browed Tit-Warblers, and other goodies during our travels included Black Stork, Western Osprey, many more Black-necked Cranes, more Little Owls, White-winged Tern, Azure-winged Magpie, Carrion (or Oriental) Crow, numerous Oriental Sky and Horned Larks, Pale Martin, and black-backed *calcarata* Citrine Wagtails.



Horned Lark (Craig Robson)

We made another early start in order to reach the high pass area of Mengbishan by dawn. It was another fine day, but finding our target birds proved to be a bit of a challenge. After much hard work, we finally tracked down a flock of four excellent Three-banded Rosefinches, but a couple of Crimson-browed Finches were only seen by Craig. Summer spotted a group of White Eared Pheasant, that were scoped on a distant slope, and other highlights were White-throated Needletail, yet another pair of Crested Tit-Warblers, Long-tailed Thrush, a smart Przevalski's Nuthatch, and Collared and White-winged Grosbeaks. We continued on the lengthy drive to Wolong, via Balangshan Pass (which was unfortunately engulfed in low cloud and rain). A couple of stops in a narrow sunny gorge brought two Hill Pigeons, large numbers of Salim Ali's Swifts, great views of Wallcreeper, nesting Red-billed Choughs and Eurasian Crag and Asian House Martins, and Blue Rock Thrush.

Although Wolong is famous for its Giant Panda reserve, it is also a fantastic area for birds and other wildlife. Based at a convenient guest house, we had two full days and an early morning to explore this fascinating

area. The majority of our time was spent birding at the higher levels, on either side of the Balangshan Pass. Stunning scenically, this area is also famous for its Galliforms, and it did not disappoint. With mostly fine weather conditions, we succeeded in getting some great views of Snow Partridge, Tibetan Snowcock, Blood Pheasant, Koklass Pheasant, at least six Chinese Monals, and multiple White Eared Pheasants. The highest slopes held Alpine Choughs and dazzling Grandalas, as well as numerous Alpine Accentors, and both Plain and Brandt's Mountain Finches. Bearded and Himalayan Vultures drifted overhead, Snow Pigeons swirled, White-breasted Dippers whizzed over the streams and, in the low rhododendron scrub, we found the smart and only recently split Chinese Rubythroat (formerly lumped in Himalayan or White-tailed). Somewhat lower down on either side of the pass, we found even more great birds, including Dark-breasted, Streaked and Pink-rumped Rosefinches, and two Sichuan Thrushes (a recent split from Plain-backed).



Red-fronted Rosefinches are often extremely tame (Craig Robson)

Back towards Wolong itself, we spent a morning hiking up a nice trail through bamboo to a ridge-top. Here we had our first views of a sneaky male Temminck's Tragopan, and a good number of superb Firethroats were in full song, with several showing-off overhead. Green Shrike-babbler, Golden-breasted and Grey-hooded Fulvettas, Spotted Laughingthrush and Great Parrotbill all showed nicely, but Red-winged Laughingthrush proved rather furtive.

The following day was our longest travel day of the tour (and one that will soon be much shorter, once massive on-going road developments are completed), taking us all the way from our early lunch venue at Wolong to our hotel at Luding, where we were poised for an exciting few days of birding along the south-west fringe of the Sichuan Basin.



Male and female Grandalas at Balangshan (Summer Wong)

Our first port of call was an old road that switchbacks up the lower slopes of Erlangshan. As we had hoped, several Lady Amherst's Pheasants performed admirably, and didn't seem that bothered much by the mini-bus. After an al fresco breakfast, we nailed a smart singing Firethroat by the roadside, before getting a great response from a Rufous-tailed Babbler, much appreciated by those who hadn't been on the Yunnan pre-tour. Another track, that we explored for a few kilometers, took us through some nice forest with a good selection of birds. The best bird here was a completely unexpected Golden-fronted Fulvetta, towards its upper elevation limit, and we also saw Hodgson's Hawk- and Lesser Cuckoos, Black-browed Bushtit, Emei and Kloss's Leaf Warblers, an obliging Indian Blue Robin, and a neat juvenile Little Forktail. Several superb Chinese Three-tailed Swallowtail butterflies were on show.

From Erlangshan we drove to Labahe Nature Reserve, situated in a beautiful secluded and steep-sided river valley. In the mid-afternoon, we explored a small trail. Lady Amherst's Pheasant was seen again, we found Collared Finchbill, Golden-breasted Fulvetta, had our only Golden Parrotbill of the tour, which showed exceptionally well, and there was a nice male Slaty Bunting.



Mrs. Gould's Sunbird (Craig Robson)

We spent the whole of the following day birding at Labahe. Low cloud hampered our efforts somewhat, but it didn't stop us getting absolutely unbelievable views of two males and a female Temminck's Tragopan. They were so confiding, it was really unbelievable. A couple more Lady Amherst's Pheasants showed very well and, walking a side-road back down to the main valley, we found White-backed Woodpecker, Pere David's Tit, Red-winged Laughingthrush, Fulvous Parrotbill, Chestnut-vented Nuthatch, a stonking male Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker, and Sharpe's Rosefinch. The day ended rather quietly, apart from a pair of White-crowned Forktails. After a little more birding in the valley bottom, adding the likes of Speckled Wood Pigeon, and Sulphur-breasted and Alstrom's Warblers to our tally. We continued to our final destination of the tour at Longcanggou.

This was certainly the most interesting and productive of our venues in this part of Sichuan, with its wide range of different habitats and elevations, and some of our most sought-after targets. At the highest levels we had our greatest success, notching-up the tricky Sichuan Treecreeper, Spotted Bush Warbler, some showy Emei Shan Liocichlas, and both Grey-hooded and Brown Parrotbills. Mid-elevation bamboo delivered two star birds in the form of Three-toed Parrotbill and another excellent Golden-fronted Fulvetta. A huge trundling grey blob turned out to be an amazing Chinese Bamboo Rat, and on the same trail, we found a nice male Rufous-bellied Niltava and nesting Slaty-blue Flycatchers. At the lower levels, including the surroundings of our accommodation, we added Dusky Fulvetta, lots of Ashy-throated Parrotbills, Brown-breasted, Ferruginous and Chinese Blue Flycatchers, Brown Bullfinch, Yellow-throated Bunting, and Grey-capped Greenfinch. A number of calling Chinese Bamboo Partridges could not be coaxed-in! Other highlights at Longcanggou were several more Temminck's Tragopans, including a pair with a chick, another Lady Amherst's Pheasant, Black Baza, Chinese Sparrowhawk, Grey-faced Buzzard, more Speckled Wood Pigeons, Darjeeling Woodpecker, good numbers of neat Fire-capped Tits, *leucothorax* race Black Bulbuls, a family of Black-browed Bushtits, Brown Bush Warbler, Red-winged Laughingthrush, Red-tailed Minla, and Grey-hooded Fulvetta. Masked Palm Civet was another mammal of interest.

After a relatively short drive on the expressway, we found ourselves back at Chengdu Airport, and another exciting adventure drew to its conclusion.



Blue Eared Pheasant (Summer Wong)

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* Common on the Tibetan Plateau.

Gadwall *Anas strepera* One at Lake Caohai.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* Two at Lake Caohai.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Eastern Spot-billed Duck (Chinese S-b D) *Anas zonorhyncha* c.30 at Lake Caohai, including three chicks.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* Five at Wild Flower Lake, north of Ruoergai.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* 50+ at Lake Caohai

Common Merganser *Mergus merganser* (NL) A couple of individuals in the Ruoergai area (*orientalis*).

Chinese Grouse *Tetrastes sewerzowi* A total of eight seen, with best views at Gouwa.

Snow Partridge *Lerwa lerwa* Good scope views of four just below Balangshan Pass, and another briefly.

Verreaux's Monal-Partridge *Tetraophasis obscurus* Seen at several sites; best at Gouwa Forest.

Tibetan Snowcock *Tetraogallus tibetanus* One performed below Balangshan Pass (*henrici*).

Tibetan Partridge *Perdix hodgsoniae* A very responsive individual near Ruoergai (*sifanica*).

Chinese Bamboo Partridge *Bambusicola thoracicus* (H) Heard in the Longcanggou lowlands, but unresponsive.

Blood Pheasant *Ithaginis cruentus* Many sightings in Sichuan; *berezowskii* in north-west, *geoffroyi* at Balangshan.



Male Blood Pheasant at Baxi Forest (Summer Wong)

Temminck's Tragopan *Tragopan temminckii* Eight seen, including a chick.

Koklass Pheasant *Pucrasia macrolopha* Seen at Tangjiahe and near the tunnel at Balangshan (*ruficollis*).

Chinese Monal *Lophophorus lhuysii* Six or seven seen very well near the tunnel at Balangshan.

White Eared Pheasant *Crossoptilon crossoptilon* 11 logged; Mengbishan and Balangshan.

Blue Eared Pheasant *Crossoptilon auritum* At least 10; Gongangling Pass, and Baxi and Gouwa Forests.

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* Subspecies *suehschanensis* in NW Sichuan, *elegans* near Lijiang.

Golden Pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus* Five of these beauties seen at Tangjiahe; heard Jiuzhaigou, Baihe and Wolong.

Lady Amherst's Pheasant *Chrysolophus amherstiae* Stunner! At least seven seen, many heard.



A wonderful male Golden Pheasant at Tangjiahe (Summer Wong)

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans* Three at Lake Caohai, near Lijiang.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* Two different singles seen near to Ruorgai.

Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*

Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus*

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Great Egret (Eastern G E) *Ardea [alba] modesta* Two at Lake Caohai, and a couple en route in Sichuan.

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia* Surprising write-in; 15 Lake Caohai (where breeding), 1 Ruorgai-Mearkang.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* One during the journey from Ruorgai to Mearkang.

Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier) *Gypaetus barbatus* A few seen at Gouwa and in the Balangshan area (*aureus*).

Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus orientalis* One at Longcanggou was the only one.

Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes* A nice pair at Longcanggou.

Himalayan Vulture *Gyps himalayensis* Quite common in north-west Sichuan. First seen on the journey to Ruorgai.

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malaiensis* (NL) One at Labahe.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* A total of five seen, the first at Gongangling Pass (*daphanea*).

Chinese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter soloensis* Just one near our accommodation at Longcanggou.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* Three seen in total, the first at Huangtuliang Pass (*melaschistos*).

Black Kite (Black-eared K) *Milvus (migrans) lineatus* Common on the Tibetan Plateau. One on nest near Ruoergai.

Grey-faced Buzzard *Buteo indicus* One scoped at Longcanggou.

Upland Buzzard *Buteo hemilasius* Several seen well on the Tibetan Plateau.

Himalayan Buzzard *Buteo burmanicus* 20 seen throughout. Several were very dark.

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus* (NL) Jeremy saw one from the bus on the way to Mearkang.

Black-tailed Crake *Porzana bicolor* Fantastic views of a pair near Lijiang. A not unexpected tour write-in.

Grey-headed Swamphen *Porphyrio poliocephalus* c.50 at Lake Caohai.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

Black-necked Crane *Grus nigricollis* Good numbers (c.45) seen well on the Tibetan Plateau. Great birds.



Black-necked Cranes are unmolested and fairly tame near Ruoergai (Craig Robson)

Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus* A single bird at Lake Caohai was a surprise.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* One by a river south of Ruoergai.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* Quite common on the Tibetan Plateau. First seen at Wild Flower Lake (*eurhina*).

Brown-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus* Quite common around Ruoergai.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* A few seen at Wild Flower Lake, and near Ruoergai, (*tibetana*).

White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* Close views of three breeding-plumaged birds south of Ruoergai.

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Hill Pigeon *Columba rupestris* A pair swooping through a gorge en route to Mearkang.

Snow Pigeon *Columba leuconota* 29 at Balangshan (*gradaria*).

Speckled Wood Pigeon *Columba hodgsonii* Near Lijiang, at Tangjiahe, Labahe, and Longcanggou. Over 50 birds.

Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis* Quite common. First seen at around Lijiang (nominate).

Red Turtle Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica* Remarkable male at c.4,300m, heading for Balangshan Pass (*humilis*).

Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis* Especially common in Chengdu (*chinensis*).

Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon *Treron sphenura* Two near Lijiang.

Asian Koel *Eudynamis scolopaceus* Several heard; one seen en route to Jiuzhaigou (*chinensis*).

Large Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx sparverioides* (H) Regularly heard.

Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx nasicolor* One seen well at Erlangshan.

Lesser Cuckoo *Cuculus poliocephalus* Frequently heard, with several seen.

Himalayan Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus* Frequently heard; only seen at Longcanggou.

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* Very widespread, and easily seen (*bakeri*).

Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei* (H) Once near Lijiang.

Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides* (NL) Alex got one from the bus in SW Sichuan (*whiteleyi*).

Little Owl *Athene noctua* Three seen well between Ruergai and Hongyuan (*ludlowi*).

Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus jotaka* Common along the back-roads in Yunnan.

Himalayan Swiftlet *Aerodramus brevirostris* Several in the Longcanggou area (*innominatus* - Chinese Swiftlet).

White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus* Seen very well a few times (*nudipes*).

Salim Ali's Swift *Apus salimalii* Widespread in Sichuan mountains.

Black-capped Kingfisher *Halcyon pileata* (NL) One seen en route in Sichuan.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Crested Kingfisher *Megaceryle lugubris* (NL) Henry had one at Tangjiahe (*guttulata*).

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Great Barbet *Psilopogon virens* (H) A distant calling bird lower down at Longcanggou.



Darjeeling Woodpecker (Summer Wong) & Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker (Craig Robson)

Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Yungipicus canicapillus* One at Tangjiahe was unexpected (*kaleensis*).

Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker *Picoides tridactylus* A pair at their nest-hole at Gouwa Forest (*funebri*).

Darjeeling Woodpecker *Dendrocopos darjellensis* Three at Tangjiahe and one at Longcanggou (*desmursi*).

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* Singles near Lijiang, at Tangjiahe, and Jiuzhaigou (*stresemanni*).

White-backed Woodpecker *Dendrocopos leucotos* One at Tangjiahe, and two at Labahe NR (*tangi*).

Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius* One briefly at Baxi, and another heard at Gouwa (*khamensis*).

Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus* One seen at Tangjiahe (*kogo*). Heard near Lijiang (*sordidior*).

Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis* One briefly at Erlangshan (nominate).

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug* Great views of a hunting bird near Ruoergai.

Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus*

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach* Just one noted in Yunnan (nominate).

Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus*

Blyth's Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius aeralatus* Small numbers near Lijiang and at Erlangshan and Labahe (*ricketti*).

Green Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius xanthochlorus* A single male at Wolong (*pallidus*).

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*

Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus* (NL) Just one en route to Chengdu from Longcanggou (*brevirostris*).

White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis* Several in Yunnan.

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius* Heard in Yunnan, then a few seen in Sichuan (*sinensis*).

Azure-winged Magpie *Cyanopica cyanus* Frequent around Ruoergai and south to Hongyuan (*nominate*).

Red-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythroryncha*

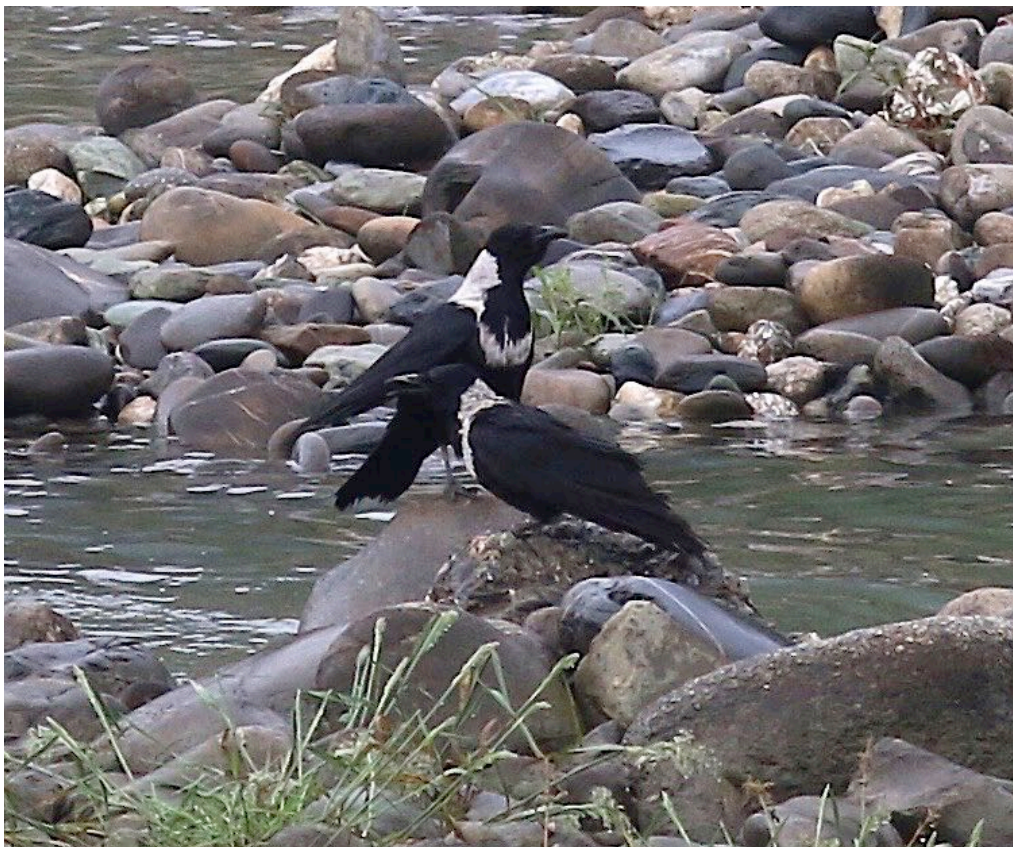
Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica* Frequent in north-western Sichuan (*bottanensis*).

Spotted Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes* Widespread (*macella*).

Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* Widespread in north-western Sichuan (*himalayanus*).

Alpine Chough *Pyrrhocorax graculus* A few seen well around Balangshan Pass (*forsythi*).

Daurian Jackdaw *Coloeus dauuricus* Several seen well in the Ruoergai area.



Collared Crows (Summer Wong)

Carrion Crow (Oriental C) *Corvus [corone] orientalis* Just a pair near Ruoergai. A potential split.

Collared Crow *Corvus torquatus* Two by the river near Pingwu; a great addition to the checklist. Well spotted Alex.

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*

Northern Raven *Corvus corax* A few on the Tibetan Plateau where first seen near to Ruoergai (*tibetanus*).

Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*

Fire-capped Tit *Cephalopyrus flammiceps* Seen very well at Longcanggou, where 16+ noted (*olivaceus*).

Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus*

Rufous-vented Tit *Periparus rubidiventris* Quite widespread in Sichuan (*whistleri*).

Coal Tit *Periparus ater* Also widespread. Crested *eckodeticatus*.

Yellow-bellied Tit *Pardaliparus venustulus* Only small numbers at Tangjiahe, Labahe and Longcanggou.



Clockwise from top left: Yellow-bellied, White-browed and Sichuan Tits (Craig Robson)

Grey Crested Tit *Lophophanes dichrous* Jiuzhaigou, Baxi, Gouwa etc. (*dichroides*); Mengbishan southwards (*wellsi*).

White-browed Tit *Poecile superciliosus* Great views at a couple of spots near Ruergai. A real stunner!

Pere David's Tit *Poecile davidi* Excellent views at Jiuzhaigou, Gongangling Pass and Labahe NR.

Black-bibbed Tit *Poecile hypermelaenus* Frequent near Lijiang, with a pair carrying food.

Sichuan Tit *Poecile weigoldicus* A nice pair at Baxi. Split from Willow Tit *P. montanus*.

Ground Tit *Pseudopodoces humilis* Many on the Tibetan Plateau, including a pair with dependant fledged young.

Japanese Tit *Parus minor* Lijiang north to Baxi Forest (*tibetanus*). Split form Cinereous (or Grey) Tit *P. cinereus*.
Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus* First seen near Lijiang, and seen at several sites in Sichuan too (*yunnanensis*).
Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula* Two forms: *weigoldi* at Lake Caohai, Lijiang; *inopinata* on the Tibetan Plateau.
Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris* Fairly common in the Ruoergai area. Really smart birds.
Tibetan Lark *Melanocorypha maxima* Several seen very well at Wild Flower Lake, north of Ruoergai (nominate).



Ground Tit fledgling and Tibetan Lark (Craig Robson)

Crested Finchbill *Spizixos canifrons* Ten near Lijiang (*ingrami*).
Collared Finchbill *Spizixos semitorques* Occasional in the Sichuan lowlands (nominate).
Brown-breasted Bulbul *Pycnonotus xanthorrhous* Common in Yunnan; scattered north to Jiuzhaigou (*andersoni*).
Light-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus sinensis*
Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus* White-headed and-breasted *leucothorax* was noted at Longcanggou.
Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* Two at Labahe, after rain.
Pale Martin *Riparia diluta* A small number feeding over the river south of Ruoergai elsewhere (*fohkienensis*).
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Common. Breeds widely in Sichuan (*gutturalis*). 2+ rusty-bellied migrant *tytleri* Labahe.
Eurasian Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* Occasional, Jiuzhaigou to Balangshan.
Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus* Widespread. Breeding on the hotels at Labahe (*cashmeriense*).
Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* Widespread. Breeding on our accommodation at Longcanggou (*japonica*).
Chinese Wren-babbler (C Cupwing) *Pnoepyga mutica* Seen Tangjiahe, Jiuzhaigou; heard Labahe, Longcanggou.
Pygmy Wren-Babbler (P Cupwing) *Pnoepyga pusilla* (H) Widespread but rather elusive (nominate).
Rufous-faced Warbler *Abroscopus albogularis* First seen at Huanhuaxi Park. Several others noted (*fulvifacies*).
Black-faced Warbler *Abroscopus schisticeps* (NL) Alex saw one briefly near Lijiang.
Brown-flanked Bush Warbler *Horornis fortipes* Widespread (*davidianus*).
Yellow-bellied Bush Warbler *Horornis acanthizoides* Fairly common in bamboo; first at Tangjiahe (nominate).
Aberrant Bush Warbler *Horornis flavolivaceus* Common (*intricatus*). The highest day total was 85 at Labahe.
Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler *Cettia major* Excellent views of at Balangshan. Smart (nominate).
Chestnut-headed Tesia *Cettia castaneocoronata* Widespread. Best seen at Jiuzhaigou (nominate).
Black-throated Bushtit *Aegithalos concinnus* Yunnan to Tangjiahe (*talifuensis*).
Black-browed Bushtit *A. bonvaloti* Mainly near Lijiang; also at Erlangshan, Labahe & Longcanggou (nominate).
Sooty Bushtit *Aegithalos fuliginosus* Seen at Tangjiahe, Jiuzhaigou (including dependant fledged young) & Wolong.
White-browed Tit-Warbler *Leptopoecile sophiae* Excellent views of several on the Tibetan Plateau (*obscurus*).
Crested Tit-Warbler *Leptopoecile elegans* Seen very well; Gongangling Pass, Gouwa and Mengbishan (nominate).
Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* One at Tangjiahe, then two *robustus* on breeding grounds near Ruoergai.
Alpine Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus occisinensis* Frequent at higher elevations in north-west Sichuan.
Buff-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus subaffinis* Several near Lijiang (where nest-building) and again at Erlangshan.

Yellow-streaked Warbler *Phylloscopus armandii* Common in suitable habitat in north-west Sichuan (nominate).

Buff-barred Warbler (p *Phylloscopus pulcher* Fairly common at high altitude throughout (nominate).

Ashy-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus maculipennis* Widespread sightings but uncommon (nominate).



White-browed Tit-Warbler (Craig Robson)

Chinese Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus yunnanensis* Frequent in north-west Sichuan.

Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei* Occasional in north-west Sichuan; heard near Lijiang (*mandellii*).

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

Large-billed Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus magnirostris*

Eastern Crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus coronatus* 1 singing at Tangjiahe; also heard here and at Jiuzhaigou.

Blyth's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides* Fairly common around Lijiang (*assamensis*).

Claudia's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus claudiae* Common and widespread in Sichuan.

Emei Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus emeiensis* Scarce; at Tangjiahe, Erlangshan, Labahe and Longcangou.

Davison's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus davisoni* Several seen very well near Lijiang. Song very different to Kloss's.

Kloss's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus ogilviegranti* Not uncommon in Sichuan, north to Wolong.

Sichuan Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus forresti* Common and widespread throughout, especially at high altitudes.

Sulphur-breasted Warbler *Phylloscopus ricketti* A few at Tangjiahe and Labahe.

Grey-crowned Warbler *Seicercus tephrocephalus* Several seen around Lijiang, and Sichuan north to Tangjiahe.

Bianchi's Warbler *Seicercus valentini* Throughout, and generally easy to see at higher altitudes.

Martens's Warbler *Seicercus omeiensis* Frequently encountered from Lijiang north to Wolong and also Baihe.

Alström's Warbler *Seicercus soror* Just a couple seen at Labahe. A lower elevation species.

Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps* A few sightings, first seen at Tangjiahe (*sinensis*).

Oriental Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis* Common at Lake Caohai, Lijiang.

Blunt-winged Warbler *Acrocephalus concinens* An unexpected bird at Baihe (nominate).

Sichuan Bush Warbler *Locustella chengi* Nice views of one singing at Longcangou. Split from Russet. *L. mandelli*.

Spotted Bush Warbler *Locustella thoracica* Superb views at Longcanggou.



Spotted Bush Warbler at Longcanggou (Craig Robson)

Baikal Bush Warbler *Locustella davidi* Rather poor views at Tangjiahe (nominate).

Brown Bush Warbler *Locustella luteoventris* Two seen well at Longcanggou.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* A few at Lake Caohai, Yunnan. A write-in.

Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata*

Black-streaked Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus gravivox* Seen well near Lijiang (*decarlei*) & Tangjiahe (*dedekensi*).

Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis* Seen near Lijiang (*similis*) & at Longcanggou (*eidos*).

Rufous-capped Babbler *Stachyridopsis ruficeps* Seen at Wolong, Erlangshan and Longcanggou (*davidi*).

Golden-fronted Fulvetta *Alcippe variegaticeps* Excellent views at Erlangshan and at Longcanggou.

Rusty-capped Fulvetta *Alcippe dubia* Generally elusive but several brief looks near Lijiang (*genestieri*).

Dusky Fulvetta *Alcippe brunnea* One showed well at Longcanggou (*olivacea*).

David's Fulvetta *Alcippe davidi* (H) A flock refused to show during a brief encounter at Tangjiahe (nominate).

Yunnan Fulvetta *Alcippe fratercula* Just one seen near Lijiang (*yunnanensis*).



Golden-fronted Fulvetta (Longcanggou, Craig Robson & after a bath at Erlangshan, Summer Wong)



Emei Shan Liocichla at Longcanggou (Summer Wong)

Chinese Babax *Babax lanceolatus* Many seen well near Lijiang (*bonvaloti*).

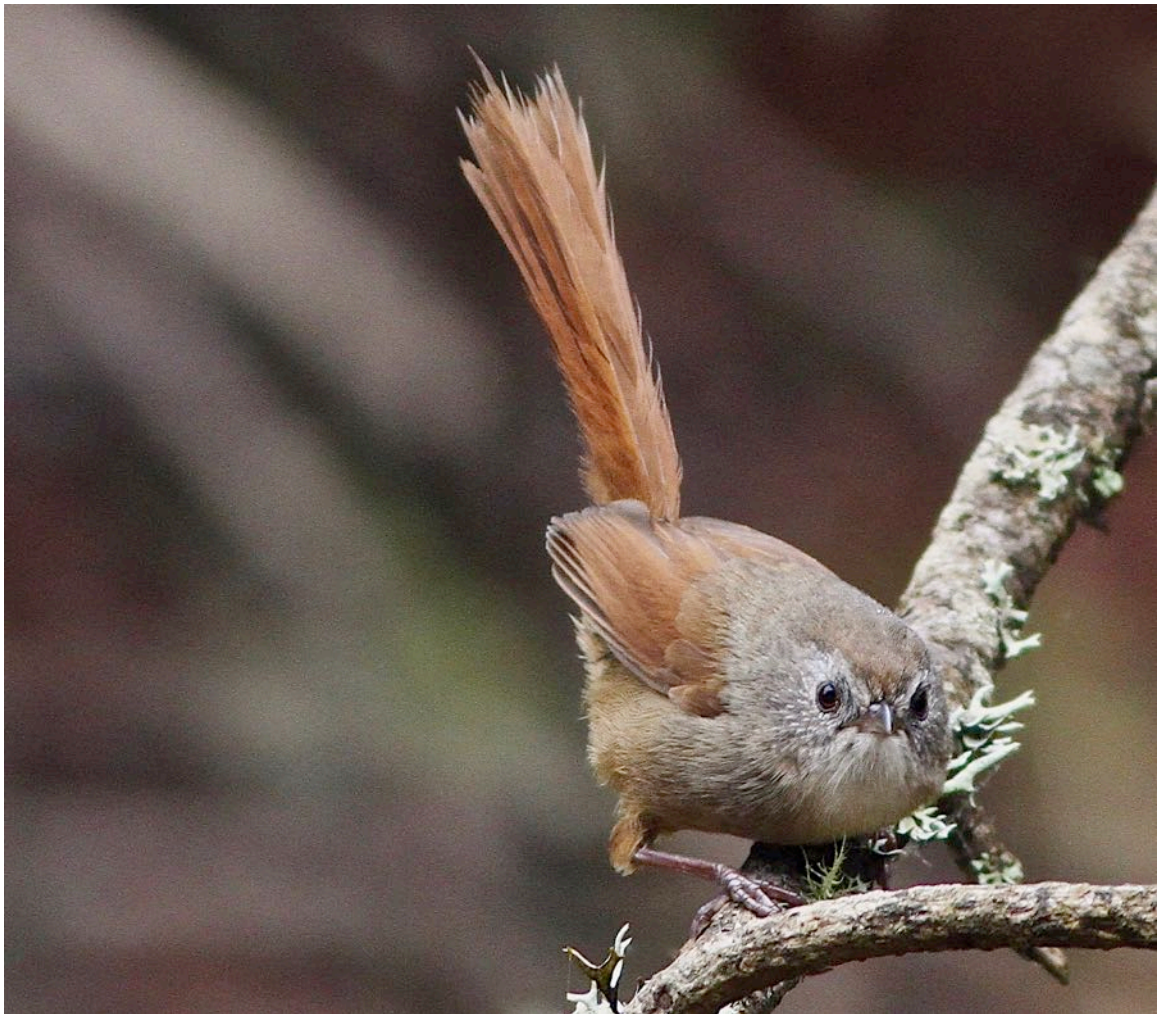
Snowy-cheeked Laughingthrush *Garrulax sukatschewi* Excellent views of three or four at Baxi; heard Jiuzhaigou.

Barred Laughingthrush *Garrulax lunulatus* Brilliant views of a singing bird at Tangjiahe.

White-speckled Laughingthrush *Garrulax bieti* Seeing this shy endemic near Lijiang was one of the tour highlights.

Giant Laughingthrush *Garrulax maximus* This superb laughingthrush was seen many times in north-west Sichuan.

Spotted Laughingthrush *Garrulax ocellatus* Good views at Wolong (*artemisiae*).



Giant Laughingthrush (Summer Wong) and Rufous-tailed Babbler (Alex Bayly)

Plain Laughingthrush *Garrulax davidi* Excellent views near to Baxi, where it was common (*concolor*).
White-browed Laughingthrush *Garrulax sannio* Occasional. First seen well at People's Park, Chengdu (*oblectans*).
Elliot's Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron elliotii* Common and widespread.



Great and Three-toed Parrotbills (Craig Robson) and Grey-hooded Parrotbill (Summer Wong)

Black-faced Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron affine* Seen near Lijiang (*muliensis*) and Huangtuliang Pass (*blythii*).
Red-winged Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron formosum* Seen at Wolong, Labahe and Longcanggou (n nominate).
Blue-winged Minla *Minla cyanouroptera* Two at Longcanggou (*wingatei*).

Bar-throated Minla *Minla strigula* Frequently seen near Lijiang (*yunnanensis*).
Red-tailed Minla *Minla ignotincta* Two at Longcanggou (*jerdoni*).
Emei Shan Liocichla *Liocichla omeiensis* Great views of a pair at Longcanggou; seven others heard.
Red-billed Leiothrix *Leiothrix lutea* Frequently seen in Sichuan (nominate).
Black-headed Sibia *Heterophasia desgodinsi* Not uncommon around Lijiang (nominate).
Golden-breasted Fulvetta *Lioparus chrysotis* A stunner; at Tangjiahe, Wolong, Labahe & Longcanggou (*swinhoii*).
Rufous-tailed Babbler (R-t Moupinia) *Moupinia poecilotis* Great views near Lijiang and at Erlangshan.
White-browed Fulvetta *Fulvetta vinipectus* Small numbers near Lijiang (*bieti*).
Chinese Fulvetta *Fulvetta striaticollis* Great views near Baxi and in the Balangshan area. Smart bird.
Spectacled Fulvetta *Fulvetta ruficapilla* Great views of a few around Lijiang in Yunnan (*sordidior*).
Grey-hooded Fulvetta *F. cinereiceps* Smart endemic; Tangjiahe, Huangtuliang, Wolong & Longcanggou (nominate).



Parrotbills, clockwise from top left: Spectacled (Summer Wong); Golden, Ashy-throated & Brown-winged (Craig Robson)

Great Parrotbill *Conostoma aemodium* Excellent views of this brute at Tangjiahe and again at Wolong.
Three-toed Parrotbill *Cholornis paradoxa* Brilliant views of one at Longcanggou (nominate)
Brown Parrotbill *Cholornis unicolor* A pair feeding on rhododendron buds at Longcanggou.
Spectacled Parrotbill *Sinosuthora conspicillata* Seen well at Tangjiahe; c.8 in all (nominate).

Vinous-throated Parrotbill *Sinosuthora webbiana* A few seen well in Chengdu and at Baihe (*suffusa*).

Ashy-throated Parrotbill *Sinosuthora alphonsiana* Quite common in the lowlands at Longcanggou (nominate).

Brown-winged Parrotbill *Sinosuthora brunnea* A pair at Shigu, near Lijiang (*ricketti*). Carrying nest material.

Grey-hooded Parrotbill *S. zappeyi* A pair of these very local endemics seen superbly at Longcanggou (nominate).

Przevalski's Parrotbill (Rusty-throated P) *Sinosuthora przewalskii* Good views of this super-rarity at Tangjiahe.

Fulvous Parrotbill *Suthora fulvifrons* Six at Tangjiahe and one at Labahe (*cyanophrys*).

Golden Parrotbill *Suthora verreauxi* Brilliant views of one at Labahe (nominate).



Yunnan and Przevalski's Nuthatches (Craig Robson) and Sichuan Treecreeper (Summer Wong)

Stripe-throated Yuhina *Yuhina gularis* One near Lijiang; small numbers at Labahe and Longcanggou (*omeiensis*).

White-collared Yuhina *Yuhina diademata* Common; *ampelina* in Yunnan and nominate in Sichuan.

Rufous-vented Yuhina *Yuhina occipitalis* An unexpected write-in near Lijiang, with three noted (*obscurior*).

Chestnut-flanked White-eye *Zosterops erythropleurus* A few at Tangjiahe, Jiuzhaigou and Erlangshan.

Japanese White-eye *Zosterops japonicus* Common and widespread. First seen in Yunnan (*simplex*).

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* Frequent at higher elevations (*yunnanensis*).

Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* Ditto (*szetschuanus*).

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea* Two at Tangjiahe and three at Jiuzhaigou (*sinensis*).

Chestnut-vented Nuthatch *Sitta nagaensis* Frequent, from Erlangshan to Longcanggou (*montium*).

Yunnan Nuthatch *Sitta yunnanensis* Excellent views of a pair at Yuquan Park, Lijiang.

Chinese Nuthatch *Sitta villosa* Good views of three at Jiuzhaigou (*bangsi*).

Przevalski's Nuthatch *Sitta przewalskii* A great bird; seen well at Gongangling Pass and Mengbishan.

Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria* A nice male seen very well en route to Mearkang (*nepalensis*).

Hodgson's Treecreeper *Certhia hodgsoni* Frequent in north-west Sichuan (*khamensis*).

Bar-tailed Treecreeper *Certhia himalayana* Just a couple at Jiuzhaigou (*yunnanensis*).

Sichuan Treecreeper *Certhia tianquanensis* Great views of a pair at Longcanggou. Only described in 1995.

Crested Myna *Acridotheres cristatellus* Occasional in the lowlands; best seen in Chengdu (nominate).

Red-billed Starling *Spodiopsar sericeus* Seen well at Lake Caohai and at Huanhuaxi Park, Chengdu.

White-cheeked Starling (Grey S) *Spodiopsar cineraceus* Ten in People's Park, Chengdu.

Sichuan Thrush *Zoothera griseiceps* 2 at Balangshan, including 1 singing. Split from Plain-backed *Z. mollissima*.

Long-tailed Thrush *Zoothera dixoni* 5 seen, and a couple heard; Tangjiahe, Gongangling, Gouwa and Mengbishan.

Scaly Thrush *Zoothera dauma* (H) One singing at Balangshan (nominate or monotypic, taxonomy-dependant).

Grandala *Grandala coelicolor* Lovely views of nine or so near to the pass at Balangshan.



Kessler's Thrush (Craig Robson)

Grey-winged Blackbird *Turdus boulboul* Several near Lijiang.

Chinese Blackbird *Turdus mandarinus* Easily seen in the Chengdu parks. Split from Common Blackbird *T. merula*.

Chestnut Thrush *Turdus rubrocanus* Fairly common in Sichuan (*gouldii*).

Kessler's Thrush *Turdus kessleri* A cracker. Common at high altitude, first seen on the way to Jiuzhaigou.

Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus* A flying and calling thrush near Lijiang was thought to be this species.

Chinese Thrush *Turdus mupinensis* Good scope views of a singing bird near Huangtuliang Pass. Heard at Wolong.

Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis* A few near Lijiang, and in the Chengdu parks (nominate).

Dark-sided Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica* A few near Lijiang and south-west of Chengdu (*rothschildi*).

Brown-breasted Flycatcher *Muscicapa muttui* One seen nicely at Longcanggou.

Ferruginous Flycatcher *Muscicapa ferruginea* Small numbers at scattered Sichuan sites.
Chinese Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis glaucicomans* One male showed at Longcanggou. A superb songster.
Rufous-bellied Niltava *Niltava sundara* A fine male at Longcanggou (nominate) .
Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassinus*
White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx montana* Often heard in north-west Sichuan, but elusive (*cruralis*).
Indian Blue Robin *Larvivora brunnea* Widespread and commonly heard; best views at Erlangshan (nominate).
White-bellied Redstart *Luscinia phoenicuroides* Often heard. Seen very well at Baxi Forest (*ichangensis*).
Chinese Rubythroat *Calliope tschebaiewi* Split now from Himalayan (or White-tailed) *C. pectoralis*. 4 at Balangshan.



The recently split Chinese Rubythroat at Balangshan (Summer Wong)

Siberian Rubythroat *Calliope calliope* One at Gongangling Pass, and two at Baxi Forest (*becki*).
Firethroat *Calliope pectardens* A must-see bird. 12 logged for Wolong, Erlangshan and Labahe. Seen very well.
White-tailed Robin *Myiomela leucura* (H)
White-browed Bush Robin *Tarsiger indicus* (H)
Himalayan Bluetail *Tarsiger rufilatus* Common in north-west Sichuan.
Golden Bush Robin *T. chrysaeus* Two superb males at Tangjiahe; brief views at Huangtuliang Pass (nominate).
Little Forktail *Enicurus scouleri* Great views of a juvenile at Erlangshan.
White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus leschenaulti* Great views of a pair at Labahe (*sinensis*).
Blue Whistling Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus*
Slaty-backed Flycatcher *Ficedula hodgsonii* Quite common in north-west Sichuan.
Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophinata* A few seen well, first seen at Jiuzhaigou (nominate).
Slaty-blue Flycatcher *Ficedula tricolor* A few seen well (*diversa*). Nest with three eggs at Longcanggou.
Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* Occasional on the Tibetan Plateau (*rufiventris*).
Hodgson's Redstart *Phoenicurus hodgsoni* A few female-types in north-west Sichuan.
White-throated Redstart *Phoenicurus schisticeps* Many of these crackers seen well; a completed nest at Gouwa.

Daurian Redstart *Phoenicurus aureus* Occasional in the lowlands. First seen near to Lijiang (*leucopterus*).
Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis*
Plumbeous Water Redstart *Phoenicurus fuliginosus*
White-capped Redstart (River Chat) *Phoenicurus leucocephalus*



White-bellied Redstart (Summer Wong)

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius* Just a couple seen on journeys, the first on the way to Wolong (*pandoo*).
Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush *Monticola rufiventris* Two males near Lijiang, with one carrying food.
Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus* Around Lijiang, and north to the Tibetan Plateau areas (*przewalskii*).
Grey Bush Chat *Saxicola ferreus* A pair at Tangjiahe, and one at Baihe.
White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus* A few seen at Balangshan (*przewalskii*).
Brown Dipper *Cinclus pallasii* Four at Tangjiahe (*przewalskii*).
Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum melanoxanthum* A male seen well at Labahe.
Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus* Frequent near Lijiang; also at Erlangshan and Labahe (nominated).
Mrs. Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae* Common north to Wolong (*dabryii*).
House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* A male at Huanhuaxi Park, Chengdu.
Russet Sparrow *Passer rutilans* Not uncommon near Lijiang (*intensior*).
Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*
Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia* A few by the roadsides near Ruogai (*brevirostris*).
Black-winged Snowfinch (Tibetan S) *Montifringilla adamsii* A tame pair at the roadside near Ruogai (*xerophila*).
White-rumped Snowfinch *Onychostruthus taczanowskii* Abundant in the Wild Flower Lake area, Ruogai.
Rufous-necked Snowfinch *Pyrgilauda ruficollis* Occasional in the Ruogai area (*isabellina*).
White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata* A few in the Chengdu parks, and one en route to Luding (*swinhoei*).
Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata* Over 30 near Lijiang (*yunnanensis*).
Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris* Common at Balangshan (*nipalensis*).

Robin Accentor *Prunella rubeculoides* Great views of four near Ruorgai (nominate).

Rufous-breasted Accentor *Prunella strophiate*

Maroon-backed Accentor *Prunella immaculata* Seen well at Jiuzhaigou and Gongangling Pass; heard a few times.



Alpine Accentor (Craig Robson)

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* A few black-backed *calcarata* on the Tibetan Plateau. Potential split (Tibetan W).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* Common and widespread. Breeds widely in Sichuan (nominate).

White Wagtail (Himalayan W) *Motacilla [alba] alboides* Common and widespread, even in Chengdu.

Blyth's Pipit *Anthus godlewskii* (NL) Henry had one at Tangjiahe.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* A few on territory in north-west Sichuan (nominate).

Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus* First seen at Huangtuliang Pass. Particularly common around Balangshan.

Przevalski's Finch *Urocynchramus pylzowi* Stunning views of a brilliant male near Ruorgai. Mega!

Collared Grosbeak *Mycerobas affinis* A female at Gouwa, and a male at Mengbisha.

White-winged Grosbeak *Mycerobas carnipes* A few at Huangtuliang and Gongangling, and Mengbisha (nominate).

Chinese Grosbeak *Eophona migratoria* Great views of three at Huanhuaxi Park, Chengdu (*sowerbyi*).

Brown Bullfinch *Pyrrhula nipalensis* Surprisingly common at the lower levels at Longcanggou (*ricketti*); 30+.

Grey-headed Bullfinch *Pyrrhula erythaca* Fairly common throughout (nominate); 20 logged.

Dark-breasted Rosefinch *Procarduelis nipalensis* Great views around the tunnel at Balangshan (*nipalensis*).

Plain Mountain Finch *Leucosticte nemoricola* 24 logged around Balangshan (nominate).

Brandt's Mountain Finch *Leucosticte brandti* Commoner at Balangshan, with 45 logged.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* Widespread and fairly common, often very brightly coloured (*roseatus*)!

Streaked Rosefinch *Carpodacus rubicilloides* Seven or so in their breeding habitat at Balangshan (nominate).

Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch *C. pulcherrimus* 2 Huangtuliang and 3 Gongangling Pass, 3 Gouwa (*argyrophrys*).

Pink-rumped Rosefinch *Carpodacus waltoni* At least six below Balangshan (*eos*).

Sharpe's Rosefinch *Carpodacus verreauxii* Great views of a female near Lijiang, and a male scoped at Labahe NR.
Vinaceous Rosefinch *Carpodacus vinaceus* Occasional and widespread sightings.



A lovely male Pink-rumped Rosefinch (Craig Robson)

Three-banded Rosefinch *Carpodacus trifasciatus* Great views of four at Mengbishan.
Chinese White-browed Rosefinch *C. dubius* A stunner; common and widespread in suitable habitat (*femininus*).
Red-fronted Rosefinch *Carpodacus puniceus* Brilliant views of three tame pairs at Balangshan.
Crimson-browed Finch *Carpodacus subhimachalus* Two at Mengbishan. Leader only!
Grey-capped Greenfinch *Chloris sinica* Common the in the lowlands, mainly at Longcanggou (nominate).
Black-headed Greenfinch *Chloris ambigua* 20+ around Lijiang, where feeding fledge young (*longirostris*).
Twite *Linaria flavirostris* Just two noted on the Tibetan Plateau (*miniakensis*).
Tibetan Serin *Spinus thibetanus* Small numbers at Jiuzhaigou and Huangtuliang Pass.
Slaty Bunting *Emberiza siemsseni* 4 of these junco-like buntings at Tangjiahe, 1 at Labahe, and 2 at Longcanggou.
Godlewski's Bunting *Emberiza godlewskii* Forms *yunnanensis* first on the drive to Tangjiahe; *omissa* near to Baxi.
Yellow-throated Bunting *E. elegans* These beauties were regular in Yunnan, at Labahe & Longcanggou (*elegantula*).



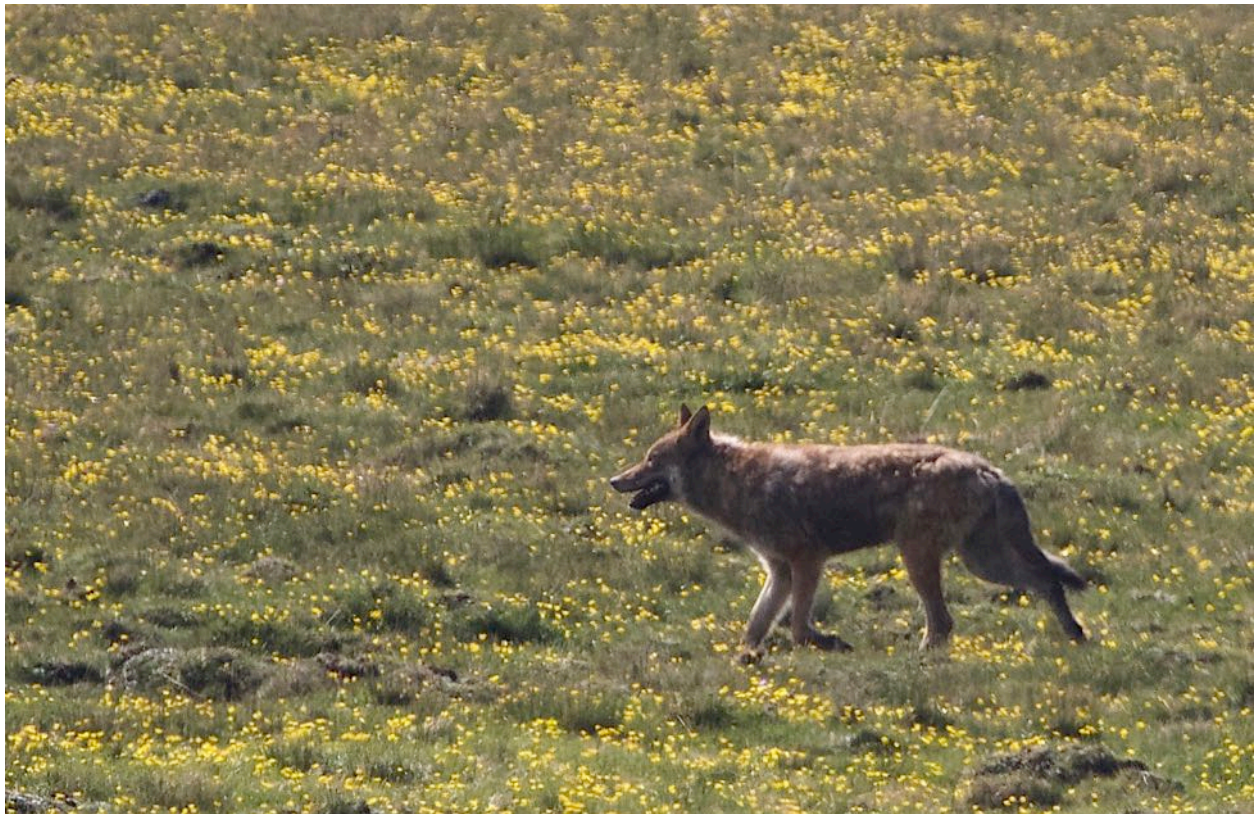
Tibetan Plateau landscapes in the Ruergai area (Craig Robson)

MAMMALS

- Black-lipped Pika (Plateau P)** *Ochotona curzoniae* Common on the Tibetan Plateau.
- Moupin Pika** *Ochotona thibetana* A few seen in more wooded areas.
- Woolly Hare** *Lepus oiostolus* A few sightings on the Tibetan Plateau.
- Mouse sp.** One in fields near Lijiang, was probably *Mus caroli*.
- Père David's Rock Squirrel** *Sciurotamias davidianus* A few noted at Tangjiahe.
- Himalayan Marmot** *Marmota himalayana* Fairly common at high altitudes. Characterful.
- Perny's Squirrel (P's Long-nosed S)** *Dremomys pernyi* A few identified - terrestrial.
- Pallas's Squirrel** *Callosciurus erythraeus* A couple identified at Jiuzhaigou.
- Swinhoe's Striped Squirrel** *Tamias swinhoei* (NL) 2 small stripy squirrels at Jiuzhaigou were probably this species.
- Chinese Bamboo Rat** *Rhizomys sinensis* One of these amazing creatures along a trail at Longcanggou.
- Masked Palm Civet** *Paguma larvata* One right in front of the lead vehicle at Longcanggou.
- Tibetan Fox** *Vulpes ferrilata* Nice scope views of a couple on the Tibetan Plateau.
- Grey Wolf** *Canis lupis* Fantastic views of two near Ruoergai.
- Père David's Macaque** *Macaca thibetana* c.30 at Labahe Nature Reserve.
- Eurasian Wild Boar (Wild B)** *Sus scrofa* (NL) Henry saw one at Tangjiahe.
- Tufted Deer** *Elaphodus cephalophus* One briefly at Tangjiahe, then two showing well at Baihe NR.
- Reeve's Muntjac** *Muntiacus reevesi* Several noted at Tangjiahe and Labahe.
- Thorold's Deer (White-lipped D)** *Cervus albirostris* Jeremy spotted two at Balangshan, but they were soon away.
- Sika Deer (introduced)** *Cervus nippon* Small numbers at Labahe NR. Native further north in Sichuan.
- Sambar** *Cervus unicolor* Two singles at Labahe NR.
- Eastern Roe Deer (Siberian R D)** *Capreolus pygargus* Two sparring bucks near Ruoergai; a tour write-in.
- Bharal (Blue Sheep)** *Pseudois nayaur* One scoped at Jiuzhaigou.
- Takin (Golden T)** *Budorcas taxicolor* 20 at Tangjiahe, 30 Jiuzhaigou, 2 Balangshan. Seen superbly well.
- Chinese Goral** *Nemorhaedus caudatus* 4 at Tangjiahe, 2 Balangshan, 1 Labahe NR. Also seen really well.



The fantastic Takin (Summer Wong)



Grey Wolf near Ruergai (Craig Robson), and Chinese Goral at Tangjiahe (Summer Wong)



Introduced Sika Deer at Labahe NR (Craig Robson) & Eastern Roe Deer near Ruergai (Summer Wong)

NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Some authors lump Eastern Osprey *P. cristatus* (Sulawesi to Australia) in this species, using the name Osprey for the enlarged species.

Black (or Black-eared) Kite *Milvus [migrans] lineatus*

Some authors have proposed that the form concerned should be split off as a separate species: Black-eared Kite *M. lineatus*.

Himalayan Buzzard *Buteo burmanicus*

Many authors lump this species and Japanese Buzzard *B. japonicus* in Common Buzzard *B. buteo*.

Salim Ali's Swift *Apus salimalii*

The Pacific (or Fork-tailed) Swift complex has been split into four species: Salim Ali's Swift *A. salimalii* (breeding from Tibetan Plateau to W China), Cook's Swift *A. cooki* (breeding from E Myanmar, northern Thailand and northern Indochina to S China), Blyth's Swift *A. leuconyx* (breeding in the Himalayas from Pakistan east to NE India), and Pacific Swift *A. pacificus* (breeding in the C and E Palearctic).

Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker *Picoides tridactylus*

Some authors lump American Three-toed Woodpecker *P. dorsalis* in this species, using the name Three-toed Woodpecker for the enlarged species. In addition, the dark form we saw (*funnebris*) may merit specific status.

Azure-winged Magpie *Cyanopica cyanus*

Some authors still lump Iberian Magpie (or Iberian Azure-winged Magpie) *C. cooki* in this species.

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica*

Formerly, Black-billed Magpie *P. hudsonia* (of North America) was lumped in this species with the name Common Magpie being used for the enlarged species.

Carrion (or Oriental) Crow *Corvus [corone] orientalis*

This distinctive taxon has been suggested as meriting full species status by some authorities.

Large-billed Crow *Corvus [macrorhynchus] japonensis*

Many authors lump this (and several related forms) in Southern Jungle Crow *C. macrorhynchus* using the name Large-billed Crow for the enlarged species.

Sichuan (or Tibetan) Tit *Parus weigoldicus*

This species was formerly treated as part of the *songarus* group of Willow Tit *P. montanus*, (although sometimes this group was treated as a full species under the name Songar Tit *P. songarus*). Recent genetic studies suggest that Songar Tit *sensu stricto* does not in fact merit specific status, whereas *weigoldicus* of the Tibetan Plateau and its edge is highly distinct!

Japanese Tit *Parus minor*

This species (eastern Tibetan Plateau east to Japan) and Cinereous Tit *P. cinereus* (E Iran to SE Asia), were formerly lumped in Great Tit *P. major* (Europe to Siberia).

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

A recent split from Scaly-breasted Wren-babbler (or Cupwing) *P. albiventer*.

Alpine Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus occisinensis*

Many authors include this recently recognized species in Tickell's Leaf Warbler *P. affinis*.

Chinese Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus yunnanensis*

A relatively recently described species breeding from Sichuan to NE China; apparently closely related to Lemon-rumped Warbler *P. chloronotus* but has a fundamentally different song and some morphological differences. This species, which was first described in 1992, was originally named *P. sichuanensis*, but subsequent studies revealed that five individuals of this species had already been described as *P. proregulus yunnanensis* by La Touche in 1922, and consequently that name prevails.

Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*

The form in the region, *mandellii*, is distinct, and may be elevated to species status at some stage.

Blyth's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides*

Claudia's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus claudiae*

The former Blyth's Leaf Warbler has now split into three species; Claudia's Leaf Warbler *P. claudiae* (breeding C and E China), Blyth's Leaf Warbler *P. reguloides* (breeding Himalayas to Yunnan and SE Asia), and Hartert's Leaf Warbler *P. goodsoni* (breeding SE China).

Emei Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus emeiensis*

A recently described species, so far restricted as a breeder to Sichuan. Apparently closely related to Blyth's Leaf Warbler *P. reguloides* but with a completely different song and some morphological differences.

Davison's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus davisoni*

Kloss's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus ogilviegranti*

The former White-tailed Leaf Warbler has recently been split into two species Davison's Leaf Warbler *P. davisoni* (breeding Yunnan [except SE], N,C,E Burma, NW Thailand, northern Indochina), and Kloss's Leaf Warbler *P. ogilviegranti* (breeding Sichuan and SE Yunnan to SE China and SE Thailand and S Indochina).

Sichuan Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus forresti*

This species was formerly lumped in Lemon-rumped Warbler *P. chloronotus*. In turn, the combined Lemon-rumped Warbler was formerly lumped in Pallas's Leaf Warbler *P. proregulus*.

Sichuan Bush Warbler *Locustella chengi*

This cryptic species was recently recognized as being separate from Russet Bush Warbler *L. mandelli*. The two are morphologically similar though the songs have different pitch and emphasis.

Black-streaked Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus swinhoei*

This species and Grey-sided Scimitar Babbler *P. swinhoei* (of E China) were formerly lumped in Black-necklaced Scimitar Babbler *P. erythrocnemis* (of Taiwan), with the name Spot-breasted Scimitar Babbler applied to the enlarged species.

David's Fulvetta *Alcippe davidi*

Yunnan Fulvetta *Alcippe fratercula*

These species (which range from west-central China to northern Vietnam, and from S China to N,E Myanmar, NW Thailand and NW Laos respectively) and Huet's Fulvetta (SE China), were formerly lumped in Grey-cheeked Fulvetta *A. morrisonia*, which is now restricted to Taiwan.

Grey-hooded Fulvetta *Alcippe cinereiceps*

This species and Taiwan Fulvetta *A. formosana* were formerly lumped in Streak-throated Fulvetta *A. manipurensis* (NE India to NW Vietnam and W,S Yunnan), with the name Streak-throated Fulvetta applied to the enlarged species.

Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

This species was formerly known as Winter Wren, but it has been re-named following the splitting off of Pacific Wren *T. pacificus* and Winter Wren *T. hiemalis* in North America.

Sichuan Treecreeper *Certhia tianquanensis*

This interesting relict form, restricted to north-west and west Sichuan, was originally described as a new race of Eurasian Treecreeper *C. familiaris* but is now treated as a full species, and is probably more closely related to Sikkim (or Brown-throated) Treecreeper *C. discolor*.

Sichuan Thrush *Zoothera griseiceps*

This new species, along with the newly recognized Himalayan Thrush *Z. salimalii*, were formerly lumped in Alpine Thrush *Z. mollissima*, with the name Plain-backed Thrush applied to the enlarged species. Sichuan Thrush is found in mid to upper montane forest, whereas Alpine Thrush (which is also possible on this tour) is generally found above the treeline.

Scaly Thrush *Zoothera dauma*

Some authors lump White's Thrush *Z. aurea* (breeding E Palearctic), Nilgiri Thrush *Z. neilgherriensis* (SW India) and Sri Lanka (or Ceylon Scaly) Thrush *Z. imbricata* in this species (which breeds from the Himalayas to SE Asia), using the name Scaly Thrush for the enlarged species.

Chinese Blackbird *Turdus mandarinus*

Some authors lump this species in Eurasian (or Common) Blackbird *T. merula*.

Chinese Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis glaucicomans*

Some authors lump this species in Blue-throated Flycatcher *C. rubeculoides*, but distinct differences in morphology and vocalizations confirm it is a distinct species.

Chinese (or Himalayan or White-tailed) Rubythroat *Calliope tschebaiewi*

This recently split form is somewhat intermediate in characters between Himalayan (or White-tailed) Rubythroat *C. pectoralis* and Siberian Rubythroat *C. calliope*. It was formerly lumped in Himalayan.

Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus*

Some authors lump this species (occurring from the northern Caucasus eastwards across Eurasia) and Common Stonechat *S. rubicola* (of Europe and North Africa) in African Stonechat *S. torquata* (of sub Saharan Africa) using the name Common Stonechat for the enlarged species.

Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch *Carpodacus pulcherrimus*

Formerly, Chinese Beautiful Rosefinch *C. davidianus* was lumped in this species with the name Beautiful Rosefinch employed for the enlarged species. Confusingly, the form found in Sichuan, *argyrophrys*, was initially included in Chinese Beautiful Rosefinch, but following taxonomic revision, has been placed in this species.

Sharpe's Rosefinch *Carpodacus verreauxii*

This distinctive species was formerly lumped in Spot-winged Rosefinch *C. rodopeplus*.

Chinese White-browed Rosefinch *Carpodacus dubius*

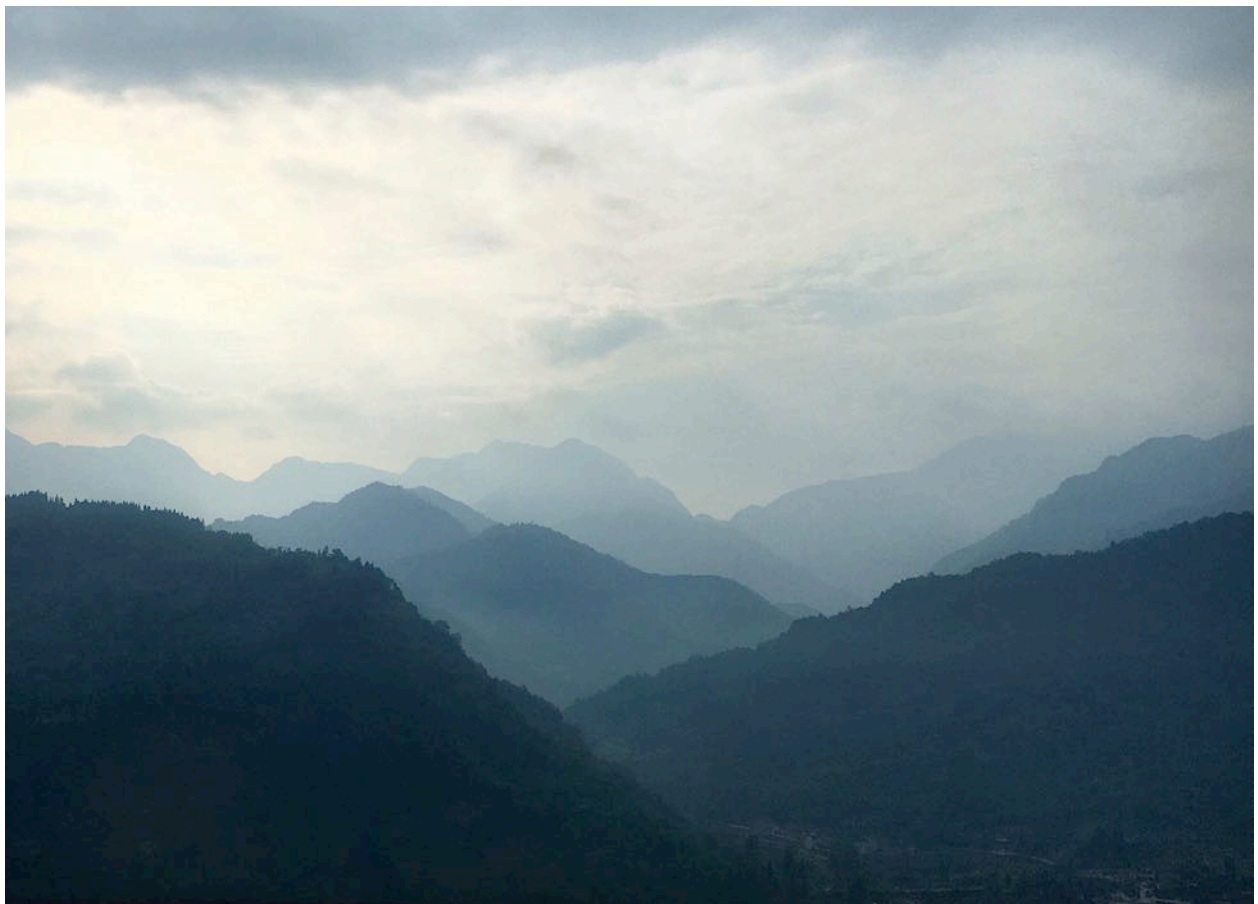
Many authors lump this species in Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch *C. pulcherrimus* using the name White-browed Rosefinch for the enlarged species.

APPENDIX 1**TOP TEN BIRDS OF THE TOUR**

- 1st **Temminck's Tragopan**
- 2nd **Chinese Monal**
- 3rd **Lady Amherst's Pheasant**
- 4th **Przevalski's Finch**
- 5th **White-speckled Laughingthrush**



White-speckled Laughingthrush (left Craig Robson, right Summer Wong)



Endless hills near Longcanggou (Craig Robson)

APPENDIX 2 - Other fauna & flora recorded

AMPHIBIANS

Asiatic Toad *Bufo gargarizans* Widespread sightings.

BUTTERFLIES

Chinese Three-tailed Swallowtail *Bhutanitis thaidina* Several of these beauties at Erlangshan.

Chinese Windmill *Atrophaneura plutonius* Photographed at Wolong.

Glassy Bluebottle *Graphium cloanthus* Photographed at Wolong.

Dark Clouded Yellow *Colias fieldii* Widespread sightings of this orangey-yellow butterfly.

Common (or Step-banded) Forester *Lethe insana* Photographed at Erlangshan.

Dusky (or Pale) Labyrinth *Neope yama* Photographed at Longcanggou.

Labyrinth *Neope agrestis* W China endemic. Photographed at Erlangshan.

Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui* One at Wolong.



Chinese Three-tailed Swallowtail (Craig Robson)

PLANTS

Lampshade Poppy *Mecanopsis integrifolia* Widespread at high elevations in Sichuan.

Corydalis *Corydalis kokiana*

Round-leaved Wintergreen *Pyrola rotundifolia*

Rock jasmine *Androsace mariae* Near Ruorgai.

Monkey flower *Mimulus tenellus*

Crimson-tipped Lousewort *Pedicularis oederi*

Gloxinia *Incarvillea younghusbandii* Near Ruorgai.

Asian Dwarf Elder *Sambucus adnata* Jiuzhaigou etc.

Edelweiss *Leontopodium cf calocephalum* Near Ruorgai.

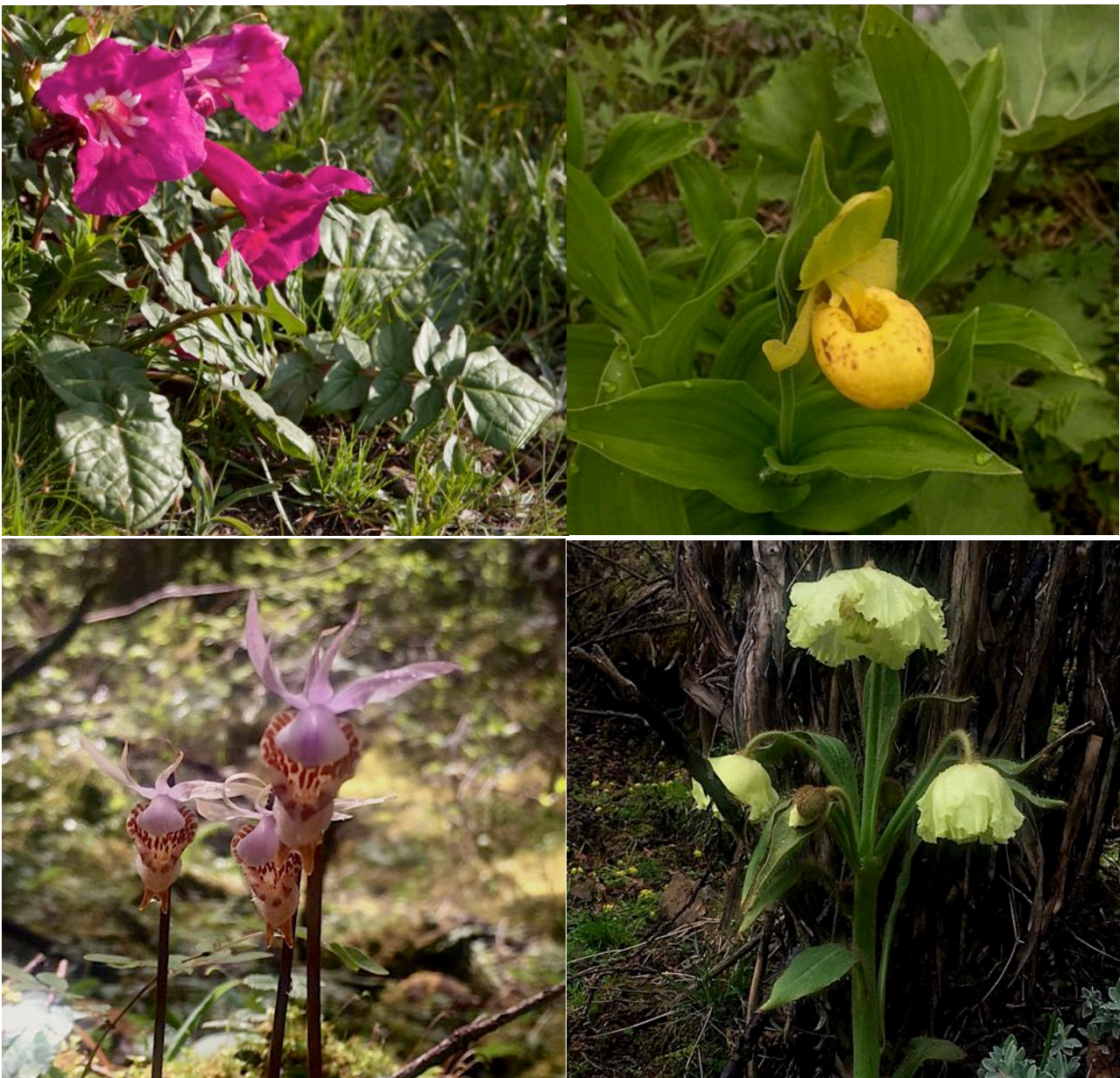
Mountain Everlasting *Antennaria dioica* Near Ruorgai.

Giant Himalayan Lily *Cardiocrinum giganteum*

Yellow Lady's-slipper *Cypripedium flavum* One at Baihe NR.

White Helleborine *Cephalanthera damasomium* By the road at Erlangshan.

Calypso Orchid *Calypso bulbosa* Quite a few in the Kezegou Valley, Jiuzhaigou.



Clockwise from top left: *Gloxinia* sp., Yellow Lady's-slipper, Lampshade Poppy & Calypso Orchid (Craig Robson).