

TRAVELREPORT

Tibet and Qinghai

12-06 to 04-07-2009



Tibetan (Kozlov's) Bunting Kanda Shan Pass near Nanqien

Max Berlijn
Wilhelminastraat 9
6285 AS Epen (LB) Nederland
max.berlijn@ing.nl

ITENERARY

Fri: 12-06 Flight from Amsterdam to Chengdu.

Sat : 13-06 Flight from Ch. to Xining and birded the last hours at Bei Shan Mountain 2400M.

Sun: 14-06 Birded at Laoye Shan and Kangle Shan (Shan means mountain) near Xining 2900M

Mon: 15-06 Drove to Huzhu Bei Shan (NE of Xining, three hour drive) and birded around 12 Windings Slope 3400M

Thue:16-06 Birded around Huzhu Bei Shan in several valleys.

Wed :17-06 Birded at 12 Winding Slope and drove with stops back to Xining 3200M

Thur: 18-06 Drove from Xining to Gonghe and later to Wenquan 4499M

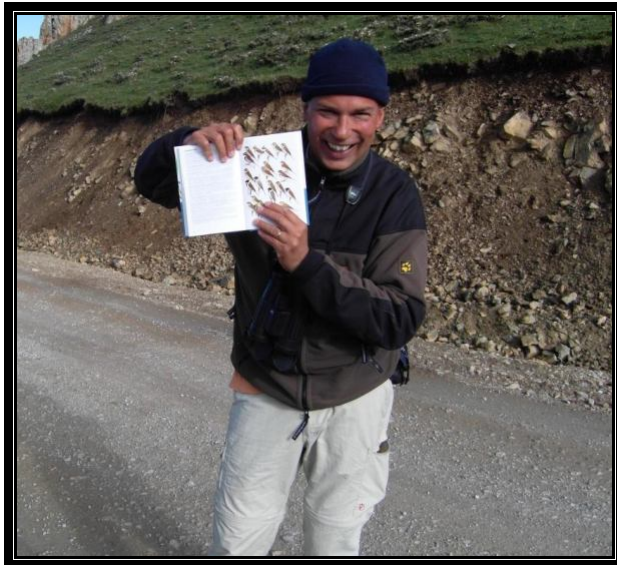


Xining to Yushu and later to the SW to Nanqien(not on th map) a total of 1.100 km

Fri: 19-06 Birded at several wetlands on the plateau (km 376) and drove to Yushu 4824M

Sat: 20-06 Drove with birding stops from Yushu to Nanqien.

Sun: 21-06 Birded at Kanda Shan Pass near Nanqien and several other birding sites 4637M



No more emberiza's....

Mon: 22-06 Birded at the Beizha Forrest reserve near Nanqien and drove to the Gaer Monastery to spend the night 4062M

Thue: 23-06 Birded near the monastery and drove with stops back to Nanqien

Wed: 24-06 Drove back with birding stops to Yushu.

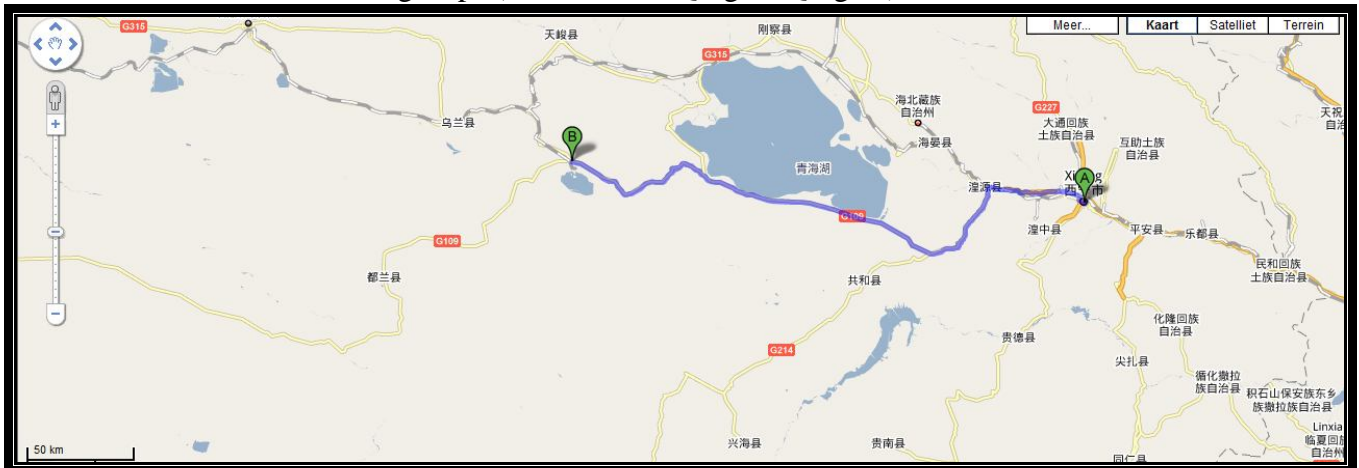
Thur: 25-06 Drove from Yushu back to Wenquan (500+ km) to spend the night.

Fri: 26-06 D-Day, birded at Er La Pass for THE bird later drove to Gonghe 4900M



Ladies and Gentleman, we have got them!!!!!!

Sat: 27-06 Drove with birding stops (around Lake Qinghai Qinghai) to Chaka 3900M



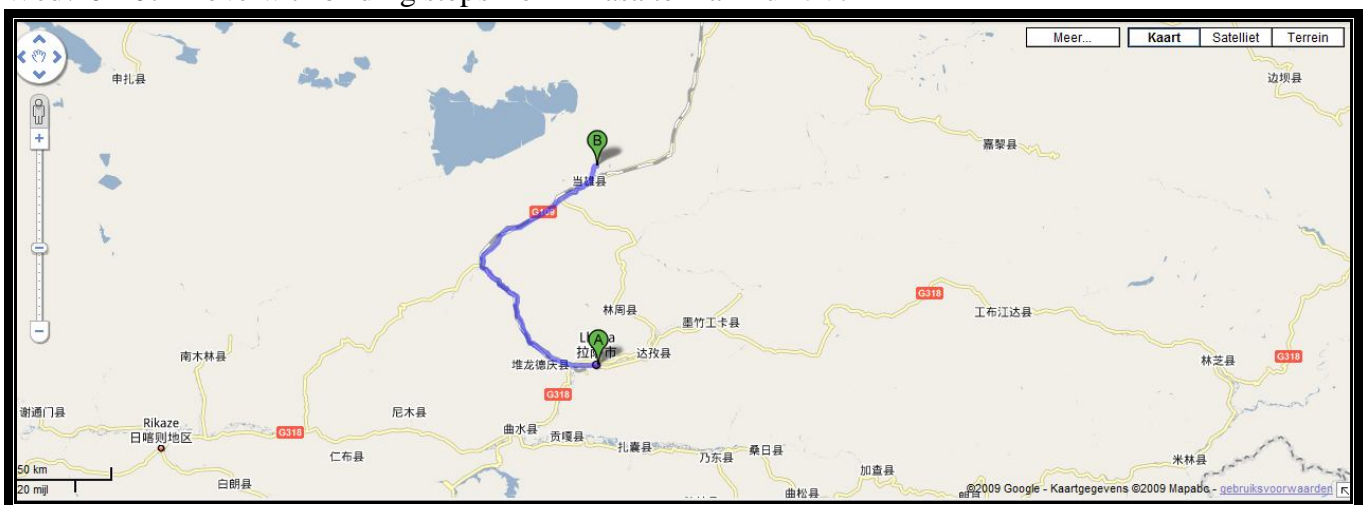
Xining to Chaka 400+ km

Sun: 28-06 Birded around Chaka

Mon: 29-06 Birded on the desert road east of Chaka and drove back to Xining.

Tue: 30-06 Flew from Xining via Xian to Lhasa.

Wed: 01-07 Drove with birding stops from Lhasa to Damxun 5190M



Lhasa to Damxun(g) 140 km

Tue: 02-07 Birded at the Nam Tso Lake Q. area, later on with b. stops back to Lhasa 5190M

Fri: 03-07 Visited the Potala and later on flew from Lhasa to Chengdu.
Sat: 04-07 Flew from Chengdu to Amsterdam, home sweet home.....

Meters per day where the highest reached altitudes of that day when interesting to know.

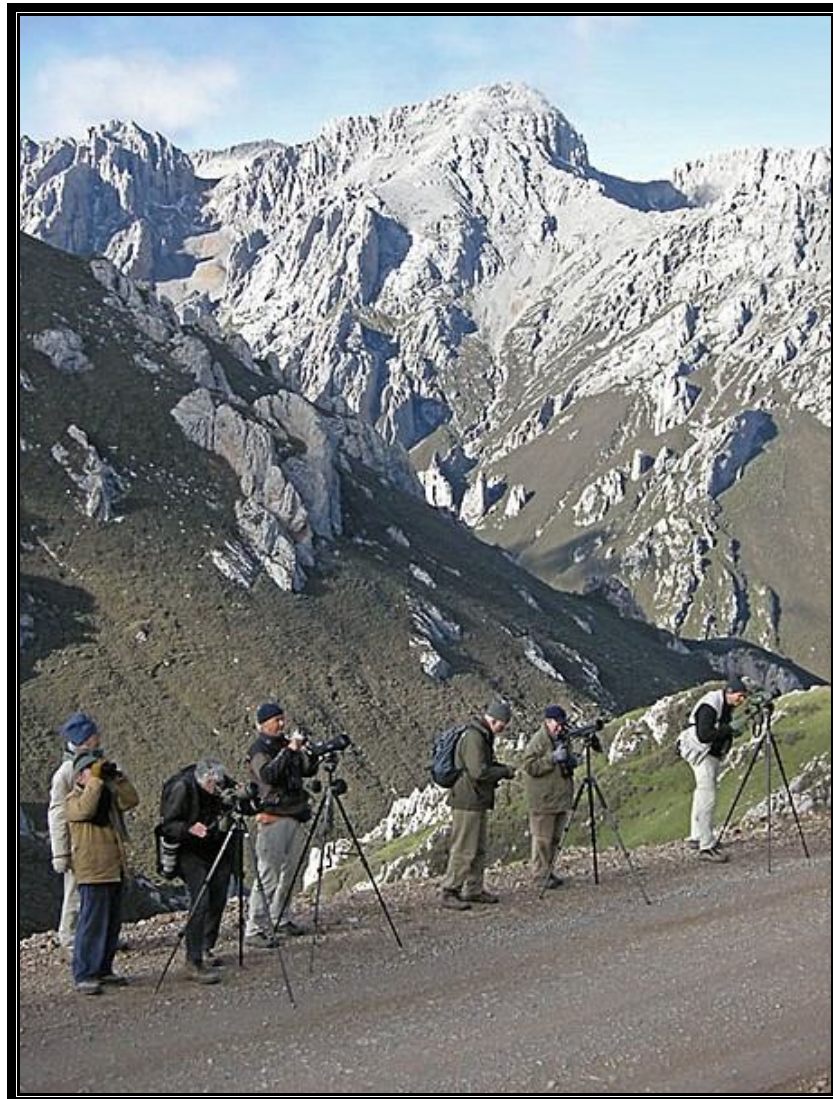
Legenda:

***AAAA** = New (Holarctic) Species (59)

AAAA = Good bird for the area or for myself

The Dutch name is given when known (according to van den Berg, Dutch Birding-name when the species is on the Dutch list). The list order is conform Palaeartic Birds by Beaman with the recent changes on the splitting and lumping issue mainly based on the book "Dutch Birding bird names". Subspecies is only mentioned when thought to be important and really visible in the field.

The weather was variable with weather types constantly moving in and out during the trip. Luckily all bad weather (scarce and mainly at the high passes) with hailstorms and thunderstorms where encountered during travelling days. Usually the weather started good in the morning, turned hot in the afternoon and ended with rain in the evening all through the trip.



Birding at Kanda Shan Pass seeing Kozlov's Bunting (Hannu Jannes)

THE BIRDSPECIES

001 LITTLE GREBE – *tachybaptus ruficollis*

27-06 6 ex at a marsh under way along the south shore of the Lake Qinghai, often calling.

002 GREAT CRESTED GREBE – *podiceps cristatus*

19-06 30 ex. at a Lake Qinghai along the way.

27-06 100 ex. at one of the visited marshes, these birds were breeding in colonies.

003 BLACK NECKED GREBE – *podiceps nigricollis*

27-06 50 ex. in a colony at a visited marsh.

004 GREAT CORMORANT – *phalacrocorax carbo*

29-06 60 ex, at a colony at a site at the south shore of the Lake Qinghai.

005 EASTERN CATTLE EGRET – *bubulcus (ibis) coromandus*

A total of 70 birds seen on the plateau spread over several days, mostly in (half) winter plumage so maybe immature first year colonisers?

006 GREAT EGRET – *egretta alba*

27-06 2 ex, between Grey Herons at a visited marsh.

007 GREY HERON – *ardea cinerea*

27-06 8 ex. in one flock at a marsh visited on that day.

008 WHOOPER SWAN – *cygnus cygnus*

27-06 3 adults at a visited marsh.

009 GREYLAG GOOSE – *anser anser ssp: rubrirostris*

27-06 150 ex, spread over the south side of the Lake Qinghai

010 BAR-HEADED GOOSE – *anser indicus*

Common on the plateau of Qinghai in small (family) flocks

011 TUNDRA BEAN GOOSE – *anser rossicus ssp: serrirostris?*

25-06 1 ex between a flock of Bar-headed Geese, according to the bill shape and the not long neck we made it in a Tundra, very unexpected at this height (+/- 4000 meter)

012 RUDDY SHELDUCK – *tadorna ferruginea*

The commonest duck seen at many places also breeding on cliffs.

013 COMMON SHELDUCK – *tadorna tadorna*

27-06 2 ex, a pair at a little pond along the road, a good bird in this area.

014 GADWALL – *anas strepera*

19-06 3 ex, at a visited Lake Qinghai on the plateau

27-06 3 ex, at a visited marsh.

015 EURASIAN TEAL – *anas crecca*

27-06 a little flock of 8 birds was seen at one of the “best” visited marshes during the trip.

016 MALLARD – *anas platyrhynchos*

A total of 9 birds seen on the trip spread over three days.

017 NORTHERN PINTAIL – *anas acuta*

19-06 1 male seen at a visited Lake Qinghai moulting in eclipse.

018 RED-CRESTED POCHARD – *netta rufina*

27-06 50 ex, seen well at one visited marsh in small flocks.

019 COMMON POCHARD – *aythya ferina*

27-06 50 ex. at the visited marsh

020 FERRUGINOUS DUCK – *aythya nyroca*

27-06 8 ex, near nests at the visited marsh. Nice views of the pairs.

021 TUFTED DUCK – *aythya fuligula*

19-06 10 ex on a visited Lake Qinghai.

27-06 40 ex at the visited marsh.

022 GOOS ANDER – mergus merganser

A total of 17 birds seen mostly female types (one male) spread over the trip in fast floating rivers with gravel and also in holes on cliffs.

023 BLACK KITE – milvus migrans ssp: lineatus??

A total of 9 birds seen spread over the trip mostly at breeding sites in the mountains, all looked like the “black-eared” form.

024 PALLAS’S FISH EAGLE – haliaeetus leucoryphus

03-07 1 immature seen flying over the central square in Lhasa. The bird was very pale (Steppe eagle) coloured, with a broad white line on the underwings and very obvious pale “spots” made by pale inner primaries. It had a dark eye/ear patch and its structure was big and long necked.

025 LAMMERGEIER – gypaetus barbatus

A total of 19 birds seen, with one nest and just fledged young (02-07), often great views.



Lammergeier near the nest on 02-07

026 HIMALAYAN GRIFFON VULTURE – gyps himalayensis

The commonest Vulture seen daily with a maximum of 20 birds a day (24-06). Sometimes very white birds, some less white, also birds at nests (no real colonies) with young on it.

027 NORTHERN GOSHAWK – accipiter gentilis

16-06 1 ex, flying and landing in a tree in one of the visited valley’s during the day.

028 EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK – accipiter nisus

A total of 3 birds seen spread over the trip.

029 COMMON BUZZARD – buteo buteo ssp: burmanicus

A total of 6 birds seen spread over the trip, no real differences seen with “our” Buzzard.

***030 UPLAND BUZZARD – BUTEO HEMILASIVS**

Commonly seen on the plateau, with the highest day counts of 120 (19-06) and 99 (25) both days were while crossing the plateau. A big buteo, sometimes looking more like an immature Golden Eagle.



An Upland Buzzard at one of the passes, crossing the plateau

031 STEPPE EAGLE – aquila ni palensis

25-06 1 immature nicely seen on the ground and in flight along the way on the plateau, surprisingly scarce there.

032 GOLDEN EAGLE – aquila chrysaetos

A total of 6 birds seen on the plateau, in flight and perched.

033 COMMON KESTREL – falco tinnunculus

A total of 11 birds seen spread over the whole length of the trip.

034 EURASIAN HOBBY – falco subbuteo

20-06 1 ex, sitting in the evening on a wire near Nanqien.

035 SAKER FALCON – falco cherrug

A total of 22 birds seen spread over the days on the plateau and one bird near Nam Tso Lake Qinghai. The maximum on one day was 17 on 19-06/ Some at nests and very nice views.

036 PEREGRINE FALCON – falco peregrinus

15-06 1 ex, seen along the way.

24-06 1 ex. seen along the way.

***037 SEVERTOV'S GROUSE - BONASA (TETRASTES) SEWERZOWI**

15-06 1 male (black throat) seen walking over a path and up a slope in a little visited valley. Very good views, of this brown hazel grouse like "chicken", with a black throat and very obvious barring at the sides of the tail (centre looked dark). What a bird!!!

***038 SZECHENYI'S MONAL PARTIDGE – TETRAOPHISIS SZECHENYII**

22-06 3 ex. at the Beizha Forrest reserve, of which one seen very well coming into the tape at close range. Like a big "bonasa" with a yellow throat.

***039 VERREAUX'S MONAL PARTIDGE – TETRAOPHISIS OBSCURUS**

17-06 2 ex. at "12 Winding Slope", seen very well, attracted with a tape and visible in the open. As 038 but with a dark buff throat.



Verreaux's Monal Partridge by Fred Teeuwen

***040 TIBETAN SNOWCOCK – TETRAOGALLUS TIBETANUS**

21-06 3 ex., at Kanda Shan Pass, a pair with a calling male and a solitaire calling male.

26-06 1 ex. heard at Er La Pass.

Nice birds and good views of the pair. The call was typical for that genus, and curlew like.



Tibetan Snowcock, a pair at Kanda Shan Pass

***041 PRZEVALSKY'S (RUSTY-NECKLACED) PARTRIDGE – ALECTORNIS MAGNA**

27-06 6 ex, in one flock seen very well (scope views) in a valley while searching for the Ala Shan Redstart. The black line around the throat was more black than expected but also brown in this. Also heard well.

042 DAURIAN PARTIDGE – per dix daurica

14-06 2 ex. seen in flight at Laoye Shan

***043 TIBETAN PARTIDGE – PERDIX HODGSONIAE**

21-06 1 heard along the way.

22-06 1 ex. flushed from the road and not seen well along the way near Nanqien

27-06 1 heard in a little valley visited

01-07 6 ex, seen very well, mating, calling and walking in the open, at a site near Lhasa.



Tibetan Partridge, probably female near Lhasa

***044 BLOOD PHEASANT – ITHAGINIS CRUETUS ssp: geoffroyi**

22-06 2 males at Beizha Forrest, found on call

23-06 2 males at Gaer monastery calling and crossing the road.



Blood Pheasant at Beizha Forrest by Werner Mueller

045 WHITE EARED PHEASANT – CROSSOPTILON CROSSOPTILON ssp: *crossoptilon

21-06 11 birds in one flock seen well feeding on the hillside of a visited valley

22-06 7 ex, seen at close range walking on a hillside at Beiza Forrest.

Nice big pheasants often in flocks and calling.



White eared pheasant by Werner Mueller

***046 TIBETAN EARED PHEASANT- CROSSOPTILON HARMANI**

01-07 7 ex, in a valley near Lhasa, seen extremely well, calling and coming from the hills to feed in a little village at close range. One of the big apotheoses of the trip.



Tibetan eared pheasant coming in to feed by Hannu James

***047 BLUE EARED PHEASANT – CROSSOPTILON AURITUM**

15-06 4 ex, seen well at a distance in one flock feeding in and on top of bushes also calling.

16-06 2 seen close by sitting hiding from the rain under a bush also calling

The eared pheasant species with the longest ears and the most difficult eared of the trip..



White Eared Pheasant at "12 windings slope".

048 COMMON PHEASANT – *phasianus colchicus*

A total of 17 seen in the first (Huzhu Bei Shan) part of the trip.

049 EURASIAN COOT – *fulica atra*

27-06 60 ex in a small colony at one of the visited marshes.

01-06 10 ex at a river along the way.

02-06 20+ at the marsh at the edge of the city of Lhasa.

050 BLACK-NECKED CRANE – *grus nigricollis*

A total of 33 birds and one with a small chick seen on the plateau, some very nice views.

051 IBISBILL – *ibidorhyncha struthersii*

17-06 2 ex. and a half grown chick in a visited stream along the way.

21-06 2 ex. seen in a stream along the way.

24-06 3 ex. seen in stream along the way.

This species is probably far more common than seen on the trip but you have to look in the streams quite carefully to find them



Ibisbill in a stream on the southern site of the plateau

052 BLACK-WINGED STILT – *himantopus himantopus*

27-06 25 ex. seen together in a marsh visited along the Lake Qinghai's south side.

053 KENTISH PLOVER – *charadrius alexandrinus*

27-06 3 ex, at the southern shore of the Lake Qinghai at stop to check for waders.

054 LESSER SANDPLOVER – *charadrius atrifrons* ssp: *atrifrons*

19-06 100 ex, in several (non breeding ?) flocks on the wet places on the plateau

25-06 10 ex, in a small flock on a wet place along the way on the plateau.

01-07 1 ex. at a little marsh near Damxun



Lesser Sandplover on the plateau Werner Mueller

055 NORTHERN LAPWING – *vanellus vanellus*

27-06-2009 2 ex seen during the lunch stop along the south shore of the Lake Qinghai.

056 GREY-HEADED LAPWING – *vanellus cinereus*

27-06 1 ex., seen well in one of the best marsh sides visited on the south side of the Lake Qinghai. According to its distribution it looks quite out of range and quite high up (4000 meters). Nice views on the ground and in flight.

057 BLACK-TAILED GODWIT – *limosa limosa* ssp: *melanuroides?*

27-06 1 ex, in winter plumage at one of the best marsh sides visited.

058 EURASIAN CURLEW – *numenius arquata* ssp: *orientalis*

29-06 30 ex. in one flock on a shore at the south side of the Lake Qinghai

059 MARSH SANDPIPER – *tringa stagnatilis*

27-06 1 ex., flying up when a Corsac fox was hunting in the marsh.

060 COMMON REDSHANK – *tringa totanus*

The most common wader during the trip breeding on almost all the (high) wet places.

061 GREEN SANDPIPER – *tringa ochropus*

29-06 1 ex, in a wet filed along the south side of the Lake Qinghai.

062 WOOD SANDPIPER – *tringa glareola*

25-06 1 ex. in a wet area on the plateau

29-06 5 ex. in a wet filed along the south side of the Lake Qinghai.

063 PALLAS'S GULL – *larus ichthyaetus*

A total of 64 were seen along the south side of Qinghai Lake Qinghai and the rivers near Lhasa, mostly nice summer plumage birds, and one colony seen.

064 BLACK-HEADED GULL – *larus ridibundus*

27-06 1 ex., with the Brown headed Gulls during a stop along the south side of the Lake Qinghai.

065 BROWN-HEADED GULL – *larus brunnicephalus*

The commonest gull of the trip, with a maximum of 30 seen on a day (02-07), mostly in nice summer plumages.



Brown headed gulls at Nam Tso Lake Qinghai

066 COMMON TERN – stern hirundo ssp: tibetana

Seen almost daily at the rivers and marshes, with up to 35 a day (27-06). Two birds seen flying over a pass at 5200 meter (02-07)

067 WHISKERED TERN – chlidonias hybridus

27-06 10 ex. at a marsh site visited

068 WHITE-WINGED TERN – chlidonias leucopterus

27-06 1 ex in winter plumage between the Whiskered Terns at a marsh visited.

069 PALLAS'S SANDGROUSE – syrrhaptes paradoxus

29-06 3 ex. one pair flying by and one male on the ground near the car in the desert east of Chaka.



Pallas's Sandgrouse near Chaka by Werner Mueller

***070 TIBETAN SANDGROUSE – SYRRHAPTES TIBETANUS**

26-06 3 ex, one pair and a sole male at Er la Pass, watched for about an hour and seen in flight (calling, sandgrouse like). The bird of the trip!!



The pair.



The female by Werner Mueller

See for the story (in Dutch): <http://dutchbirding.nl/news.php?id=317>

071 HILL PIGEON – columba rupestris

Common during the whole trip often mixed with feral pigeons

***072 SNOW PIGEON – COLUMBA LEUCONOTA**

21-06 8 ex., in small flocks at Kanda Shan Pass.

24-06 1 ex. on an “Ibisbill stop” along the way.

01-07 1 ex. in a gorge visited.



Snow pigeon at the “ibisbill stop”

073 EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE – *streptopelia decaocto*

A few seen at the plateau but more common in the north side of the plateau and around Chaka.

074 ORIENTAL TURTLE DOVE – *streptopelia orientalis* ssp: *orientalis*?

14-06 2 ex, seen at Xining.

29-06 2 ex, again around Xining.

Common in the Lhasa area.

--- HIMALAYAN CUCKOO – *cuculus saturatus*

17-06 1 heard at Huzhu Bei Shan in the early morning calling opposite of the hotel but not seen so not countable for me (would have been a new species). Many not calling Cuckoo’s seen and some could have been this species..

075 COMMON CUCKOO – *cuculatus canorus*

Common at almost all places, also at 4000+ heights.

076 LITTLE OWL – *athena noctua* ssp: *ludlowi*

A total of 7 seen spread over the trip at all visited main area’s, often seen at road stops.

077 COMMON SWIFT – *apus apus* ssp: *pekinensis*

Common (with a big colony at a cliff above the city) at Xining. Not much difference in appearance with our subspecies.

078 FORK-TAILED SWIFT – *apus pacificus*

A total of 39 seen spread over the trip sometimes in small colonies.

03-07 commonly seen above Lhasa.

079 EURASIAN HOOPOE – *upupa epops*

Commonly seen during the whole trip mostly in the Lhasa area. Often near human settlements.

080 WRYNECK – *jynx torquilla*

18-06 2 ex, seen well and well at Gonghe.

081 GREY-HEADED WOODPECKER – *picus canus*

21-06 1 female seen well at Kanda Shan.

22-06 1 male at Beizha Forrest.

Nice views of birds looking for food close to the ground.

082 BLACK WOODPECKER – *dryocopus martius*

16-06 2 ex. calling and around a nest hole at Huzu Bei Shan

22-06 1 ex. at Beizha forest.

083 GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER – *dendrocopus major* ssp: *beicki*

15-06 2 ex. at Huzu Bei Shan.

27-06 1 ex. near Gonghe.

084 EURASIAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER – *picoides tridactylus* ssp: *funebri*

23-06 1 ex. seen very well in the morning at Beizha forest. A very black bird, looking much more like a real species than the split of the American taxon



The Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker by Werner Mueller

085 TIBETAN LARK – *MELANOCORYPHA MAXIMA

25-06 7 ex, seen at the plateau, often near wet area's on the way back Wenquan

28-06 2 ex. near Chaka.

Seen well, a long billed huge Calandra lark, quite pale, some birds with obvious markings on the sides of the upper breast.

086 MONGOLIAN LARK – *melanocorypha mongolica*

26-06 10 ex. along the way, very nice views.



Mongolian Lark near Gonghe by Hannu Jannes

***087 HUME'S SHORT-TOED LARK – CALANDRELLA ACUTIROSTRIS**

A total of 25 seen on the plateau a quite small sandy plain calandrella lark, much like Greater Short-toed with a peculiar call a rasping rattle. Seen well also in songflight.

088 ASIAN SHORT-TOED LARK – calandrella cheleensis

18-06 2 ex. at Gonghe.

26-06 3 ex. at Gonghe.

Good views.

089 CRESTED LARK – galerida cristata

18-06 3 ex. at Gonghe.

No noticeable difference seen with other subspecies seen in my life.

090 ORIENTAL SKYLARK – alauda gulgula

The most common lark seen during the trip on many places throughout, often in song flight.

091 HORNED LARK – ermophila alpestris ssp: elwesi ??

The second most common lark, mostly on higher places than 090, sometimes the highest bird seen on a day, often singing.

***092 PALE MARTIN – RIPARIA DILUTA ssp: tibetana**

A total of 55 counted over the whole trip. Seen at most wet area's even at high passes with small streams (29-06)
Very much like Sand Martin but paler, less dark contrast around the eye, less pronounced breast band and different sound.



Pale Martin by Werner Mueller

093 EURASIAN CRAG MARTIN – hirundo rupensis

Seen on many days with an average of three birds a day, only on 23-06 it was seen larger numbers.

094 BARN SWALLOW – hirundo rustica

19-06 2 ex. flying over the plateau (late migration)

095 RED-RUMPED SWALLOW – hirundo daurica

20-06 15 ex. Spreads over the day.

24-06 Common in Yushu.

096 ASIAN HOUSE MARTIN – delichon dasypus

Seen all over the trip in small numbers (sometimes near small colonies) with normal a maximum of 20 on a day and many on 24-06.

097 RICHARD'S PIPIT – anthus richardi

A total of 8 birds seen spread over the trip and mostly on the northern edges of the plateau. The best birds where seen on 28-06 when some birds perched on fences along the car.

098 OLIVE-BACKED PIPT – anthus hodgsoni ssp: hodgsoni

A total of 13 seen on several days mainly on the northern site of the plateau. More obvious dark lines on the mantel than the birds (subspecies) I normally see

099 ROSY PIPIT – anthus roseatus

17-06 2 ex, seen very well along the way, one bird singing on a wire. Probably seen more but did not stop for them. Like a very pink breasted water pipit



Rosy pipit

100 EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL – motacilla flava ssp: *macronyx*

18-06 5 ex. at Gonghe.

101 CITRINE WAGTAIL – motacilla citreola ssp: *calcarata + citreola*

A total of 14 birds seen off the subspecies calcarata, with a nice black back. 3 birds at Gonghe and Lake Qinghai with a grey back and considered to be of the subspecies citreola, maybe migrants?

102 GREY WAGTAIL – motacilla cinerea

15-06 1 ex at Huzu Bei Shan.

103 HIMALAYAN WAGTAIL – motacilla alba ssp: *alboides*

Quite common at the southern site of the plateau and around Lhasa

-- AMUR WAGTAIL – motacilla alba ssp: *leucopsis*

Quite common at the Northern site of the plateau and around Chaka.

--- MASKED WAGTAIL – motacilla alba ssp: *personata*

15-06 1 male, along a stream near the hotel we were staying at Huzu Bei Shan, a surprise find.

104 WHITE THROATED DIPPER – cinclus cinclus ssp: *przewalskii*

A total of 8 birds seen spread over the trip. One bird had an all dark breast (20-06) and this form seem to be named sordidus?

105 WINTER WREN – troglodytes troglodytes

16-06 1 ex. at Huzu Bei Shan.

23-06 1 ex. at Beizha Forrest.

--- MAROON BACKED ACCENTOR – *prunella immaculata*

23-06 1 male at Beizha Forrest, heard several times singing (found it myself) but was unfortunately the only group member who saw the bird sitting hidden by leaves so had uncountable (“milkpakket”) views ...

***106 RUFOUS-BREASTED ACCENTOR – PRUNELLA STROPHIATA**

A total of 10 birds seen spread over several days. At lower but also at high levels, a very streaky accentor often singing on top of scrub



Rufous-breasted Accentor by Hannu James

107 BROWN ACCENTOR – *prunella fulvescens*

A total of 8 birds seen spread over the trip. Seen from mid elevations onwards.

***108 ROBIN ACCENTOR – PRUNELLA RUBECULOIDES**

A total of 22 seen spread over the trip, with a maximum of 10 birds on a day, usually the accentor of the most high places.



The first Robin Accentor of the trip at a nesting site

109 ALPINE ACCENTOR – *prunella collaris*

02-07 1 ex, quite high up at the highest pass of the day driving back to Lhasa, just recognisable.

110 SIBERIAN RUBYTHROAT – *luscinia calliope*

A total of 13 birds seen well mainly at the outskirts of little villages at Laoye Shan and Huzu Bei Shan.

111 WHITE-TAILED RUBYTHROAT – *luscinia pectoralis* ssp: *tschebaiewi*

24-06 2 ex., along the way at the southern edge of the plateau.

25-06 10 ex., along the way at the southern edge of the plateau.

With a pronounced white moustachial stripe. Very nice views of birds singing.



"tschebaiwi fom" of White-tailed Rubythroat by Werner Mueller

112 HIMALAYAN RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL – tarsiger rufilatus

23-06 2 ex., of which one male seen very well singing at Beizha forest. Different song and blue "brow".

113 GANSU (NORTHERN) RED FLANKED BLUETAIL – tarsiger cyanurus ssp: albocoeruleus

A total of 12 birds seen and may more heard at the northern side of the plateau especially north of Xining (Huzu Bei Shan). Nice views, loos like northern with a white brow, but with a totally different song.

***114 PREZVALSKI'S (ALASHAN) REDSTART – PHOENICURUS ALASCHANICUS**

28-06 1 male seen well for a long time singing and performing well near Chaka. The walk up and down the valley was the most severe of the trip.



Prezvalski's Redstart, my last phoenicurus after a very stiff walk.

115 BLACK REDSTART – phoenicurus ochruros ssp: *rufiventris*

Common during the whole trip also at quite high elevations.

***116 HODGSON'S REDSTART – PHOENICURUS HODGSONI**

A total of 38 seen and also common on 23-06, often near villages. Very much like Common Redstart.

117 BLUE-FRONTED REDSTART – phoenicurus frontalis

A total of 24 seen and common on 29-06. Often at scrub area's not on very high (above tree line) places.

***118 WHITE-THROATED REDSTART – PHOENICURUS SCHISTICEPS**

A total of 20 seen on both sides of the plateau. It was more common on the north side of it.

Very nice redstart.

119 DAURIAN REDSTART – phoenicurus aureus

14-06 1 male singing on the edge of a forest at Laoye Shan, this is a strange far west record for this species.

120 GULDENSTADT'S REDSTART – phoenicurus erythrogaster

19-06 3 ex, mostly males at Bayankala Shan (4824 M)

25-06 2 ex, males singing at Bayankala Shan

Nice views of this big redstart.

120 WHITE CAPPED REDSTART – chaimarrornis leucocephalus

A total of 17 seen spread over the trip all near streams.

121 PLUMBOUS REDSTART – rhyacornis fuliginosus

15-05 5 ex in a little stream at Huzu Bei Shan near the place we stayed.

122 WHITE-BELLIED REDSTART – hodgsonius phaenicuroides

23-06 1 male seen very well at Beizha forest singing in the open (rare for this species). Again a really “cracking” species.



White-bellied Redstart, one of the birds of the trip by Werner Mueller.

123 SIBERIAN STONECHAT – saxicola maura

14-06 3 ex. at Laoye Shan

23-06 1 ex. at Gear monastery.

124 ISABELLINE WHEATEAR – oenanthe isabellina

Common at the steppes near Gonghe, Lake Qinghai and Chaka.

125 PIED WHEATEAR – oenanthe pleschanka

13-06 2 ex, of which 2 males near Xining.

27-06 3 ex. at the same place near Xining.

125 DESERT WHEATEAR – oenanthe deserti

28-06 4 ex. near Chaka.

126 BLUE ROCK THRUSH – monticola solitarius ssp: philippensis

14-06 1 male at Laoye Shan, never recorded on other trips.

127 (TIBETAN) BLACKBIRD – turdus merula ssp: maximus

About 13 ex. seen around Lhasa. Big birds but to me not very special..

***128 CHESTNUT THRUSH – TURDUS RUBROCANUS ssp. gouldii**

A total of 17 birds seen at Laoye Shan and Huzu Bei Shan.

Nice views, all with dark grey heads, behaved like a blackbird.



Chestnut Thrush, in the open

***129 KESSLER'S THRUSH – TURDUS KESSLERI**

Common throughout the trip up to mid elevations, not on the plateau itself.

***130 (SOUTHERN) SPOTTED BUSH WARBLER – BRADYPTERUS THORACICUS ssp. przewalskii?**

16-06 5 ex, seen well singing from bushes, at Huzu Bei Shan, throat with grey mottling seen well.

17-06 1 ex. heard at Laoye Shan.



(Southern) Spotted Bush Warbler by Hannu Jannes

131 MERGALANIC LESSER WHITETHROAT – sylvia curruca ssp. margelanica

18-06 7 ex. near Gonghe. Not very different in looks as curruca, the song was very different though.

Great looks of birds coming into the tape while careering food or nesting material in its beak.



Mergalanic Lesser Whitethroat by Werner Mueller

132 GREENISH WARBLER – *phylloscopus trochiloides*

Quite common on both sides of the plateau in the forested areas, nice views.

133 LARGE-BILLED LEAFWARBLER – *phylloscopus magnirostris*

15-06 2 ex. at Huzu Bei Shan mostly heard.

16-06 2 ex. at Huzu Bei Shan, one seen very well.

Nice big Phyllosc.

134 BUFF-BARRED WARBLER – *phylloscopus pulcher*

A total of 7 seen on both forested sides of the plateau, often quite high, hard work to see them well but I eventually managed.

135 SICHUAN LEAF WARBLER – *PHYLLOSCOPUS FORRESTI

Common in around Beizha forest. Different from Gansu on song, looked much the same. Part of the former Lemmon-rumped group.

136 GANSU LEAF WARBLER – *PHYLLOSCOPUS KANSUENSIS

Common north of Xining in the forested areas, see 135.



Gansu Leaf Warbler by Werner Mueller

137 CHINESE LEAF WARBLER – *phylloscopus yunnanensis*

16-06 3 ex, seen well at Huzu Bei Shan, mainly IDed on song.

138 HUME'S WARBLER – *phylloscopus humei* ssp: *mandelli*

Common at the northern side of the plateau, north of Xining.

139 YELLOW STREAKED WARBLER – *phylloscopus armandii*

Common on the northern side of the plateau, mainly in scrubby area's not in forests. Like a Radde's Warbler, the streaks where often not visible.

23-06 1 ex. near the monastery

140 SMOKEY WARBLER – *PHYLLOSCOPUS FULIGIVENTER* ssp: *weigoldi

29-06 2 ex. in a little high valley near Heimahe in the low rhododendron scrub. This subspecies was recently moved from Dusky to Smoky. The birds song was different from Dusky and the birds where very grey on the underparts.



Smokey Warbler by Werner Mueller

141 ALPINE LEAF WARBLER – *PHYLLOSCOPUS OCCISINENSIS

A total of 25 seen at both sides of the plateau, in low rhododendron scrub, not very high
Very yellow phyllosc.



Alpine Leaf Warbler by Werner Mueller

142 GOLDCREST – *regulus regulus* ssp: *sikkimensis*

14-06 2 ex, mainly heard at Huzu Bei Shan

23-06 2 ex. seen at Beizha.

143 SEVERTZOV'S TIT WARBLER – *leptopocille sophiae*

14-06 2 ex. at Laoye Shan

25-06 1 ex. seen well north of Yushu

Cracking bird.



Severtzov's Tit Warbler by Werner Mueller

144 CRESTED TIT WARBLER – *LEPTOPOECILE ELEGANS

14-06 1 male near Laoye Shan (see photo)

23-06 2, a pair at Beizha forest.

Almost the bird of the trip, this immaculate warbler, making 144 look drab

The crest forms a long grey line lying in the neck when it is not raised, looking like a helmet.



Crested Tit Warbler by Werner Mueller

145 DARK-SIDED FLYCATCHER – muscicapa siberica ssp: rothschildi

22+23-06 1 male at Beizha forest. Very dark underparts.

146 SLATY-BACKED FLYCATCHER – ficedula hodgsonii

14-06 3 ex. at Laoye Shan.

22-06 2 ex. at Beizha forest

23-06 Common during the day at the visited sites.

Nice flycatcher and great views.

147 BLACK-STREAKED SCIMITAR BABBLER – pomatorhinus gravivox

21-06 2 ex. near Nanqien, singing, the male showed itself in a small tree.

***148 GIANT BABAX – BABAX WADDELLI**

01-07 10 ex, near Lhasa, in a small flock, very noisy, big grey babax.

***149 KOZLOV'S BABAX – BABAX KOSLOWI**

21-06 6 ex. near Nanqien

22-06 2 ex. at Beizha.

Smaller, browner and noisy.

150 PERE DAVID'S LAUGHINGTHRUSH – garrulax davidi

14-06 8 ex, at Laoye Shan, in a small flock.

16-06 2 ex at Huzu Bei Shan.

A familiar laughingthrush for me.

***151 GIANT LAUGHINGTHRUSH – GARRULAX MAXIMUS**

22-06 4 ex. at Beizha forest

23-06 5 ex. at Beizha forest.

What a big laughingthrush, often found on sound.



Giant Laughingthrush by Werner Mueller

152 ELLIOT'S LAUGHINGTHRUSH – garrulax elliotii

Common on both sides of the plateau in forested area's.

***153 PRINCE HENRI'S LAUGHINGTHRUSH – GARRULAX HENRICI**

01-07 15 ex. near Lhasa at the same site where the Tibetan Eared pheasants were seen.

***154 CHINESE FULVETTA – ALCIPPE STRIATICOLLIS**

23-06 2 ex at Beizha forest, seen well after a long surge.

***155 WHITE-BROWED TIT – PARUS SUPERCILIOSUS**

16-06 1 ex. in a high up valley near Huzu Bei Shan.

29-06 1 ex. in a little high valley near Heimahe in the low rhododendron scrub.

Nice tit, found on sound, habitat rhododendron scrub.



White-browed Tit by Werner Mueller

156 WILLOW TIT – *parus montanus* ssp: *affinis* (former Songar Tit)

Common at the northern side of the plateau, not much different from our subspecies.

***157 SICHUAN TIT – PARUS WEIGOLDICUS**

21-06 1 seen well while hiding for the rain under a bush near Kandashan pass. Not much different than 156 but this taxon has now its own species level and was a new species coming in place for the lumped Songar Tit complex.

***158 GREY-CRESTED TIT – PARUS DICHROUS**

22-06 1 ex. at Beizha forest.

23-06 6 ex. at Beizha forest.



Grey-crested Tit by Werner Mueller

159 RUFOUS VENTED TIT – *parus rubiventris

14-06 4 ex. north of Xining in a forest visited.

22-06 2 ex. at a nest at Beizha forest

23-06 2 ex. at a nest the same.

160 JAPANESE TIT – *parus major* ssp: *minor*

Seen in low numbers on six days of the trip on both sides of the plateau and around Lhasa.

161 (HUME'S) GROUNDPECKER – *PSEUDOPODOCES HUMILIS

Common throughout the trip, the first birds seen at Gonghe (18-06) and after that seen daily until 29-06
01-07 2 ex. at Damxun from the hotel window.



Groundpecker one of the many..

162 CHINESE NUTHATCH – *sitta villosa*

14006 2 ex. at Laoye Shan, nice views.

163 PRZEVALSKY'S NUTHATCH – *SITTA PRZEVALSKII

14-06 1 ex at Laoye Shan

15-06 1 ex. at Huzu Bei Shan

16-06 1 ex. at Huzu Bei Shan.

Seen well often in the highest point of a tree with the contrasting white face, black margin of the face and warm coloured underparts.

164 WALLCREEPER – *tichodroma muraria*

15-06 1 ex. along the way at one of the passes.

20-06 1 ex. along the way at a nesting site.

165 ROSY STARLING – *pastor roseus*

19-06 1 adult female (not a very long crest) at 4000+ meters on some roadwork boulders sitting and warming up in the morning sun. A vagrant.

166 EURASIAN TREECREEPER – *certhia familiaris* ssp: *bianchi*

14-06 2 ex. at Laoye Shan mainly IDed on song which is different from the for me two dutch subspecies.

167 HODGSON'S TREECREEPER – *certhia hodgsoni* ssp: *khamensis*

22-06 1 ex. at Beizha forest

23-06 4 ex. at Beizha forest.

IDed on song very different than 166.



Hodgson's Treecreeper by Werner Mueller

168 CHINESE (ISABELLINE) SHRIKE – *lanius isabellinus/arenarius ssp: tsaidamensis*

28-06 5 ex, a family with two juveniles in Chaka “city”, and a sole male at another site near Chaka. Very pale birds (male seen the best), with paler lore’s but resembling Daurian Shrike very much..

169 BROWN SHRIKE – *lanius cristatus ssp: cristatus + lucionensis*

18-06 1 ssp: cristatus at Gonghe, a migrating bird, out of range?

28-06 1 on a nest and later seen of the nest near Chaka, with a whitish head.

170 GREY-BACKED SHRIKE – *lanius tephronotus

Common throughout the trip (also in the Lhasa area), nice shrike.

171 CHINESE GREY SHRIKE – *lanius sphenocercus ssp: giganteus*

28-06 2 birds seen in the hills near Chaka, quite distant, big and long tailed.

172 BLACK DRONGO – *dicrurus macrocercus*

A total of 11 birds seen spread over the trip. Remarkable that a species like that goes up to 4000+

173 EURASIAN JAY – *garrulous glandarius ssp: kansuensis*

16-06 3 ex. at Hu zu Bei Shan.

174 AZURE-WINGED MAGPIE – *cyanopica cyanus*

14-05 1 ex. seen along the way.

15-06 2 ex. near the hotel.

175 EURASIAN MAGPIE – *pica pica ssp: serica + bottanensis*

Common throughout the trip.

176 HENDERSON'S GROUND JAY – *PODOCES HENDERSONI

28-06 3 ex. seen well in the desert near Chaka, one performing on a pole and sitting on the wire.

29-06 3 ex, mostly in flight, in the morning in the desert near Chaka.

One of the birds of the trip. Solitaire living on the ground in the desert.

In flight they also look spectacular.



Henderson's Ground Jay by Werner Mueller and myself



177 RED-BILLED CHOUGH – *pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Common mostly on the plateau throughout, not so around Lhasa

178 ALPINE CHOUGH – *pyrrhocorax graculus*

27-06 2 ex, along the way to Chaka.

01-06 2 ex. near Lhasa.

179 DAURIAN JACKDAW – *corvus dauricus*

Common in the southeast Qinghai with up to 50 birds a day in small groups (colonies) often in the monasteries.

180 (ORIENTAL) ROOK – *corvus frugilegus ssp: pastinator*

14-06 3 ex. near Laoye Shan without the bare facial skin.

181 (ORIENTAL) CROW – *corvus corone ssp: orientalis*

16-06 2 ex. at Hu zu Bei Shan

182 LARGE-BILLED CROW – *corvus macrorhynchos ssp: tibetosinensis*

Seen in small numbers at both sides of the plateau in the forested area's

183 COMMON RAVEN – *corvus corax ssp: tibetanus*

Seen on the south side of the plateau and around Lhasa 9where it was the most common)
Big birds.

184 HOUSE SPARROW – *passer domesticus*

19-06 2 ex at road workers house south of Wenquan.

185 RUSSET SPARROW – *passer rutilans ssp: cinnamomeus*

01-07 4 ex, seen well in Lhasa and near the city. Very yellowish on the underparts.

186 EURASIAN TREE SPARROW – *passer montanus*

Common throughout the trip.

187 ROCK SPARROW – *petronia petronia*

A total of 35 seen on four days spread over the plateau and at Chaka. Often in small flocks with 20 birds as a maximum (18-06)

188 BLANFORD'S SNOWFINCH – *MONTIFRINGILLA BLANFORDI

19-06 2 ex. at a morning stop near Wenquan

26-06 5 ex. near Gonghe.

28-06 5 ex. near Chaka (see photo below)



189 RUFOUS-NECKED SNOWFINCH – *MONTIFRINGILLA RUFICOLLIS

The most common snowfinch seen on the trip seen daily in high numbers on the high flat area's also around Lhasa.



Rufous-necked Snowfinch by Werner Mueller

***190 PERE DAVID'S (SMALL) SNOWFINCH – MONTIFRINGILLA DAVIDIANA**

26-06 2 ex near Gonghe with 188 together.

27-06 1 ex. near Lake Qinghai.

Very small and the most difficult to find of all snowfinches.



Pere David's Snowfinch by Werner Mueller

***191 WHITE-RUMPED SNOWFINCH – MONTIFRINGILLA TACZANOWSKI**

Seen on many day's at suitable habitat together with the even more numerous 189. Often in family flocks.

Strange spooky looking birds.



White-rumped Snowfinch by Werner Mueller

***192 ADAM'S SNOWFINCH – MONTIFRINGILLA ADAMSI**

A total of 7 noted on three days, but probably seen many more times from the bus. Common on 02-07 at Nam-tso lake. Resembled much “our” White-winged Snowfinch.

***193 PRINCE-HENRI'S SNOWFINCH – MONTIFRINGILLA HENRICI**

A total of 21 seen at the highest passes. A big brownish snowfinch with the wing pattern of “our” White Winged.

194 GREY-CAPPED GREENFINCH – *carduelis sinica*

14-06 3 ex. at Laoye Shan.

195 TWITE – *carduelis flavirostris* ssp: *miniakensis*

Common throughout the trip on the sparsely vegetated areas.

196 COMMON CROSSBILL – *loxia curvirostra* ssp: *himalayensis*

22-06 10 ex. in a small flock sitting in trees at Beizha forest.

197 PLAIN MOUNTAIN FINCH – *leucosticte nemoricola*

A total of 18 was noted in small flocks on three days at sites on the plateau.

***198 BRANDT'S MOUNTAIN FINCH – LEUCOSTICTE BRANDTI**

A total of 20 birds was seen on five days at the most highest sites in small flocks. Nice dark finch.



Brandt's Mountain Finch by Werner Mueller

199 DESERT FINCH – *rhodospiza obsoleta*

18-06 4 ex. in a small flock at Gonghe.

200 MONGOLIAN FINCH – *bucanetes mongolicus*

A total of 14 seen, all round Gonghe at small colonies. Very nice views of birds drinking.

201 COMMON ROSEFINCH – *carpodacus erythrinus* ssp: *roseatus*

Common north of Xining.

23-06 1 ex. at the Gear monastery.

Very red males, looking very different from birds we normally seen in the Netherlands.



Common Rosefinch by Hannu Jannes

201 CHINESE BEAUTIFUL ROSEFINCH – *carpodacus davidianus*

A total of 11 seen mainly at Huzu Bei Shan, Kanda Shan and around Chaka, a quite high altitude species.

202 PINK RUMPED (STRESEMANN'S) ROSEFINCH – *CARPOACUS EOS

21-06 6 ex. in a valley coming down from at Kanda Shan pass

23-06 15 ex. spread over the day, often singing.

04-07 4 ex. near Lhasa.



So many rosefinches.....

Very much a lookalike from 201, mainly less streaked on the face and a different song.

203 SINAI ROSEFINCH – *carpodacus syroicus* ssp: *beicki*

13-06 15 ex., in a small feeding flock, males and females just on the outskirts of Xining.

17-06 1 male at the same place

Nice to see them here after seeing them in the desert this spring in Israel (different subspecies). Looking more concentrated pink on the face.

204 THREE BANDED ROSEFINCH – *CARPODACUS TRIFASCIATUS

22-06 1 male seen well in the bushes along a forest trail near a river at Beizha forest

23-06 3 ex, one male and two female at almost the same place.

This is really the “mother of all rose finches”. The male has immaculate pinkish cheeks, obvious white wing bars and is pink coloured. The bill is obvious pale coloured. The females were greenish with wingbars. The birds were often found on call and were quite secretive.

205 CHINESE WHITE BROWED ROSEFINCH – *CARPODACUS DUBIUS

15-06 1 male at 12 Winding Slope singing.

16-06 1 ex. at Huzu Bei Shan

22-06 10 ex. at Beizha forest.

23-06 commonly seen.

Very vocal rosefinch with an obvious white/pink brow.

206 STREAKED ROSEFINCH – *CARPODACUS RUBICILLOIDES

17-06 1 male along the way (high up) to Xining (see picture).

20-06 1 female along the way

21-06 6 ex. at Kanda Shan pass.

25-06 10 ex. at a stop for Przevalski’s Finch.



207 SPOTTED GREAT ROSEFINCH – *CARPODACUS SEVERTZOWI

02-07 3 ex, two male and one female were seen at Nam-tso Lake. The males were much greyer than 206 with a different song. The most difficult to find rosefinch for the trip.

This species is the most recent split of from Caucasian Great Rosefinch. Earlier 206 was a split from this taxon.



Notice the grey flanks

***208 RED-BREASTED ROSEFINCH – CARPODACUS PUNICEUS**

20-06 6 ex, seen at two stops along the way to Nangqian, with some singing males and a male coming down to feed (see photo)

24-06 1 male along the way.

This is in the literature the highest breeding songbird.



Sunglasses on..., Red breasted Rosefinch by Hannu Jannes.

***209 ROBROVSKI'S ROSEFINCH - KOZLOWIA ROBROVSKI**

25-06 2 females at Bayankala Shan, with pale bills.

26-06 2 ex. a pair going up on Er La Pass.

The shape of these rosefinches is totally different from other carpodacus rosefinches.



The male Robrovski's before we saw the Tibetan Sandgrouse, quite distracting..

***210 PRZEVALSKIS FINCH- UROCYNCHRAMUS PYLZOWI**

27-06 1 male singing at a high rhododendron area between Heimaihe and Chaka, in its weird songflight
The last of my own "big five" which came true on the trip.





The photo's say enough of how strange this bird is, below by Werner Mueller

***211 GREY-HEADED BULLFINCH – PYRRHULA ERYTHACA**

14-06 10 ex. north of Xining in small flocks.

23-06 3 ex. near the Gear monastery.



Nice Bullfinch

212 WHITE-WINGED GROSBEAK – *mycerobas car nip es*

A total of 9 seen . Seen daily in one's or two's north of Xining and south of the plateau.

213 BLACK-FACED BUNTING – *emberiza spodecephala ssp: sordida*

14-06 1 ex. near Laoye Shan

18-06 6 ex. near Gonghe.

Some nice views.

214 KOZLOV'S BUNTING – *EMBERIZA KOSLOWI

21-06 4 ex., all males most in song at Kanda Shan pass. See the digi's, nothing to say after that. My last

Emberiza for the Holarctic including Socotra...



Kozlov's Bunting by Werner Mueller

215 PINE BUNTING – *emberiza leucocephalos ssp: fronto*

18-06 6 ex, some nice males singing at a desert site near Gonghe.



I can't see they make this ever into a subspecies of Yellowhammer...

216 GODLEWSKI'S BUNTING – *emberiza godlewski*

Quite common throughout the trip.

217 MEADOW BUNTING – *emberiza ciodes*

14-06 2 ex. a pair at Laoye Shan.



Meadow Bunting by Werner Mueller

BIRDSPECIES SEEN IN CHENGDU DU FU'S PARK

- 01 Mallard – 1 female.
- 02 Little Egret – 10 ex.
- 03 Night Heron – 20 ex.
- 04 Grey Heron – 3 ex.
- 05 Cuckoo – 1 heard
- 06 House Swift – *apus nipalensis* – 1 ex.
- 07 Spotted Dove – Common
- 08 Long-tailed Shrike – 3 ex.
- 09 Magpie – 1 ex.
- 10 (Chinese) Blackbird – *turdus merula* ssp: *mandarinus*
- 11 Magpie Robin – 1 female.
- 12 Red-billed Starling – 1 ex., nice views sitting in a tree.
- 13 Crested Myna – 2 ex.
- 14 Japanese Tit – 1 ex.
- 15 Black-throated Tit – *aegithalos concinnus* – Common
- 16 Barn Swallow – 1 ex.
- 17 Red-rumped Swallow – 10 ex.
- 18 Chinese Bulbul – Common
- 19 Collared Finchbill – 1 ex.
- 20 White-browed Laughingthrush – *garrulax sannio* - Common
- 21 Rufous Capped Babbler – *stachyris ruficeps* – 1 ex.
- 22 Dusky Fulvetta – *alcippe brunnea* - 1 ex seen singing and skulking.
- 23 Grey-cheeked Fulvetta – *alcippe morrisonia* ssp: *davidi* - 2 ex. seen well
- 24 Vinous-throated Parrotbill – 20 ex. in a mixed flock with Ashy-throated.

- 25 Ashy-throated Parrotbill – *paradoxornis alphonisianus* – 10 ex, seen well and with some practice good to ID from 24.
26 White-rumped Munia – 10 ex mostly in flight.
27 Tree Sparrow – Common
28 White wagtail spec – 1 immature
29 Chinese Grosbeak – 2 ex. nice views.

Mammals, the Hairy list..

Plateau Pika (Black-lipped P) *Ochotona curzoniae*: Locally abundant on the high plains.

Glover's Pika *Ochotona gloveri*: A total of seven of this handsome pika were seen in Southeast Qinghai.

Moupin Pika *Ochotona thibetana*: One at Beizha forest.

Woolly Hare *Lepus oiostolus*: Widespread and relatively common on the Tibetan Plateau.

Himalayan Marmot *Marmota himalayana*: Widespread and common on the Tibetan Plateau.

Blyth's Vole *Microtus leucurus*: One on the roadside near Damxung.

Grey Wolf: Two groups of three animals both on the plateau between Xining and Yushu. The last observation was of three animals trying to catch a Yak but chased away by an Tibetan Mountain dog.

The killed another dog before we came in to the story



Wolfs in action by Werner Mueller

Corsac Fox *Vulpes corsac* (NL): One at a marsh at the east end of Lake Qinghai was seen and identified by Max.

Tibetan Fox *Vulpes ferrilata*: A total of seven between Wenquan and Yushu, one at Beizha forest, and three on the way from Yushu to Wenquan.

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*: One between Yushu and Nanqien, and another on the plateau between Yushu and Wenquan.

Mountain Weasel (Pale W) *Mustela altaica*: One was recorded at Beizha forest.

Asiatic Wild Ass (Kiang) *Equus hemionus*: Only four on the way from Wenquan to Yushu, but a hundred or so in the same area on the return journey. What a beautiful animal this is!



Kiangs by Werner Mueller

Siberian Roe Deer *Capreolus pygargus*: One at Huzu Bei Shan.

Tibetan Gazelle *Procapra picticaudata*: Very common between Wenquan and Yushu.

Bharal (Blue Sheep) *Pseudois nayaur*: 20 were noted between Yushu and Nanqien, ten at Kanda Shan, three above Gaer monastery at Beizha, and three near Largen La in Xizang.

Chinese Goral *Nemorhaedus caudatus*: Groups of these high altitude animals were seen on four occasions in Southeast Qinghai.

