

## **CHINA THE NEXT EPISODE**

(a special trip to see some difficult pheasants and parrotbills)



*Sichuan Jay at Menbi Shan, after 15 hours of intensive searching.*

### **Itinerary**

**08-04** Flew to Chengdu the capital of Sichuan.

**09-04** Arrival at Chengdu airport and flew later to Wuhan, later in the afternoon drove to Dongzhai nature reserve situated in the south Luoshan County, in Dabie Mountain, Xinyang, Henan Province.

**10-04** Birded in the reserve.



**11-04** Birded in the morning in heavy rain and later on drove back to Wuhan to fly back to Chengdu and spent the night.

**12-04 Drove from Chengdu over the G318 (Lhasa road) to a pass for L.A. Phaasant (at 2.800 meters), called Erlang Shan mountain “old road”. Due to big traffic problems (got stuck in a tunnel) this took us all day.**

**13-04 Drove after a morning birding near Erlang Shan along to Longcanggou and birded in the afternoon.**

**14-04 Drove from Longcanggou to Balan Shan “base camp” with birding stops.**

**15-04 Birded in the morning at Balan Shan and drove to Menbi Shan later in the day.**

**16-04 Mengbi Shan all day, in search of Sichuan Jay.**

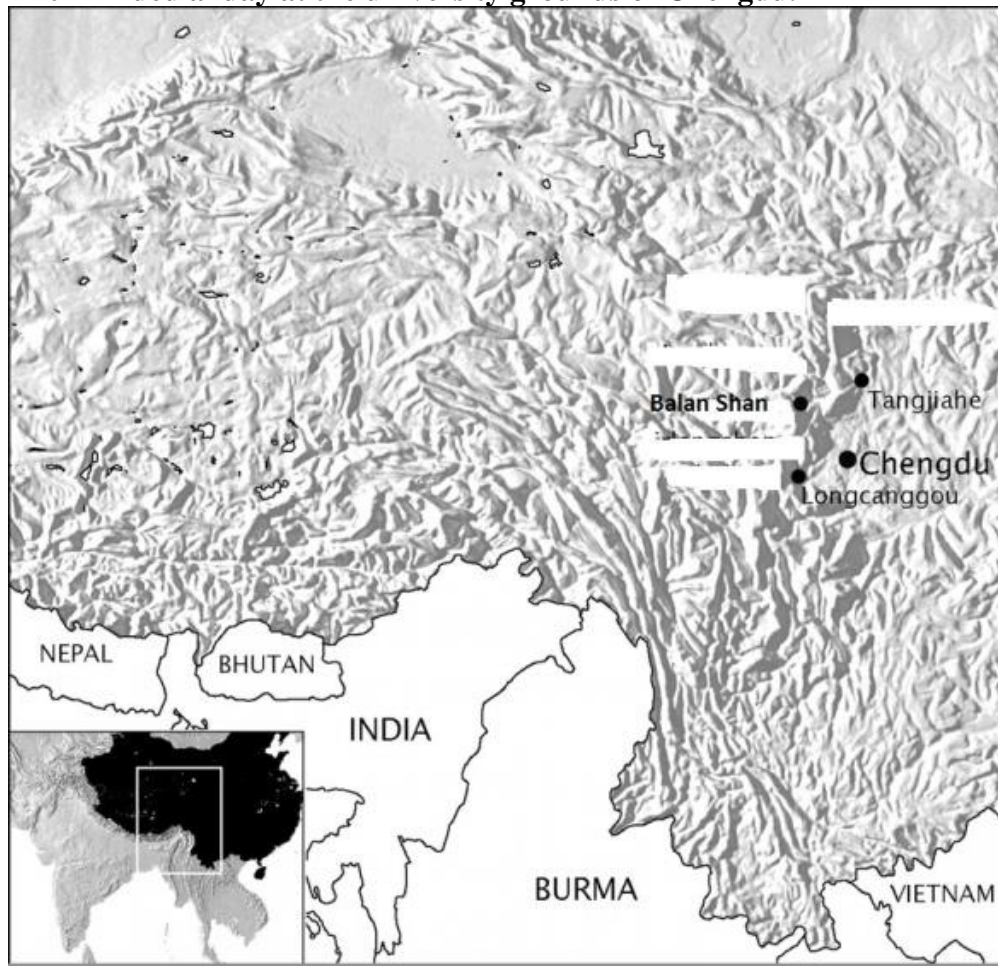
**17-04 Birded at Mengbi Shan in the morning (finally the jay after 15 hours) and drove via the Xuiboding Pass partly over the plateau.**

**18-04 Birded at the Xuiboding Pass in the morning and later on drove to Tang Jia He.**

**19-04 Walked up to the third hut (5 hours until the second hut, started at 07.00 a.m.) at Tang Jia He.**

**20-04 Walked down from the second hut at Tang Jia He (6 hours) and later that afternoon drove to Chengdu.**

**21-04 Birded al day at the university grounds of Chengdu.**



**22-04 Flew to Shijiazhuang in the morning and arriving around noon to drive, in a little bit more than two hours. to Bear's Pochard Lake.**



**23-04 Birded in the morning at Bear's Pochard Lake and drove later that day to Shijiazhuang to fly to Chengdu to arrive in the evening.**

**24-04 Birded until 10.30 at the University grounds of Chengdu and later on flew to Amsterdam to arrive in the evening.**

*Maps with the sites visited.*

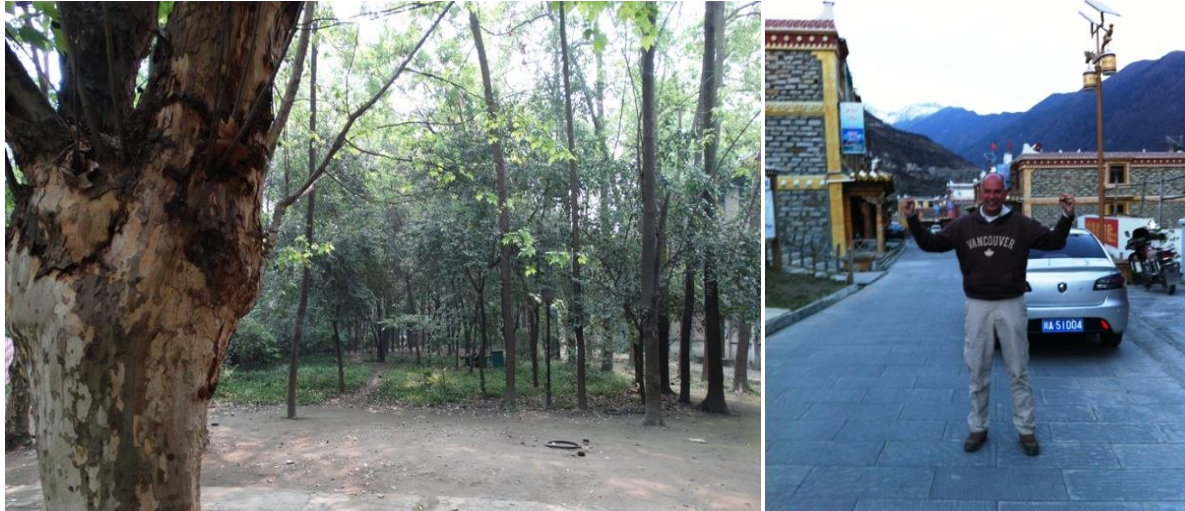
### **Useful Addresses and links:**

<http://www.chinabirdtour.com/reports.php?sortBy=52&id=26>

The weather was good during the trip, with only on two (travelling) days rain and rain and fog on the way down on 20-04..(when you do not need it). The temperature was always (even at 4.000+ meters) above the 20 C and there was never noticeable wind.







*Clockwise, Coming down from the plateau, birding in Longcanggou, The university "park", Balan Shan Basecamp*

*The list order is conform Palaearctic Birds by Beaman with the recent changes on the splitting and lumping issue mainly based on publications in the "important magazines". Subspecies is only mentioned when thought to be important and really visible in the field. The totals of birds per species are just a total of the birds I saw to give an idea how many of a species you encounter during a trip. Only species seen are mentioned.*

### **Legenda:**

**\*AAA** = New Holarctic species (12) **Aaa** = Good record for myself or the area

### **The Birds**

#### **001 Severtsov's Grouse - tetrastes sewerzowi**

18-04 1 male seen very well feeding for at least five minutes at a small path at the pass.

#### **002 Chinese Bamboo Partidge – bambusicola thoracicus**

Heard at many locations in Sichuan.

#### **003 Blood Pheasant – ithaginis cruentus**

18-04 1 ex. seen briefly at the pass.

20-04 1 ex. seen very well at the second hut in Tang Jia He.

#### **004 Temminck's Tragopan – tragopan temminckii**

20-04 2 males seen very well full in the open standing and one even displaying with the flapping wings, on the way down at Tang Jia He. Because the foggy and rainy weather and troublesome descent no photo's taken

#### **005 Koklass Pheasant – pucrasia macrolopha**

15-04 Heard many times at Balan Shan but not seen this time.

#### **\*006 CHINESE MONAL – lophophorus lhuysii**

15-04 3 ex. seen very well, walking (one almost hit by a car while crossing the road), in flight (with the white back), calling on the grassy slope of Balan Shan.



*This Monal almost was hit by a car while crossing the road*

**007 White Eared Pheasant – *crossoptilon crossoptilon***

15-04 10 ex. in small flocks scoped from the road at Balan Shan.

**008 Blue-Eared Pheasant – *crossoptilon auritum***

18-04 heard calling several times at the pass, quite close by but not seen.

**\*009 REEVES'S PHEASANT – *symaticus reevesii***

10-04 6 ex. seen very well walking on the path at the reserve. Mostly males. One male was attracted to project birds and showed twice very well. Great very long tailed pheasants. Remarkably easy able to fly off. Also sparsely heard over the day (“kwaaa call”).



*What a tail!*

**\*010 LADY AMHERST PHEASANT – *chryolophus amherstiae***

12+13-04 many birds heard and three birds seen (two males and a female) around the Erlang Shan area. The birds were heard in the Bamboo area's but finally seen at a very high area between 2800 and 3100 meter (just after the new constructed tunnel) in a sparsely vegetated area. No description necessary, one male showed for almost a full minute in the bins walking along the road!



*Finally grabbed the camera, when it runs away.*

**011 Common Pheasant – *phasianus colchicus***

23-04 3 ex. seen well two males and a female around the lake.



**012 Bar-headed Goose – *anser indicus***

22-04 1 ex. swimming at Bear's Pochard Lake, a surprise find so far north.

**013 Ruddy Shelduck – *tadorna ferruginea***

17-04 Common on the plateau, in pairs or in flocks.

**014 Mandarin Duck – *aix galericulata***

10-04 2 ex. a pair landing in a forest pool at Dongzhai.

**015 Gadwall – *anas strepera***

22+23-04 6 ex. at the lake.

**016 Falcated Duck – *anas falcata***

23-04 47 ex. in several flocks on Bear's Pochard Lake. Males and females.

**017 Eurasian Wigeon – *anas penelope***

22+23-04 15 ex. seen at Bear's Pochard Lake.

**018 Eastern Spotbilled Duck – *anas zonorhyncha***

11-04 3 ex. along the way

22+23-04 Common in the area

**019 Northern Pintail – *anas acuta***

23-04 8 ex. at the lake.

**020 Garganey – *anas querquedula***

23-04 15 ex. in one flock at Bear's Pochard Lake.

**021 Common Teal – *anas crecca***

17-04 15 ex. in one big flock at the plateau.

23-04 15 ex. at Bear's Pochard Lake.

**022 Bear's Pochard – *aythya baeri***

22+23-04 26 ex. in total at Bear's Pochard Lake, many in pairs, also many paired females with males Ferruginous Ducks. Sometimes males Bear's "entered the arena" and tried in vain to chase away the males Ferruginous.

Displaying males Bear's inflate their neck and head feathers and taking a "Spanish dancing horse" stand. Bear's where noticeably bigger than Ferruginous.

See also: <http://www.dutchbirding.nl/gallery.php?p=bigpic&gal=7&fid=10762&page=zoek> +

<http://www.birdskoreablog.org/?p=12375> + <http://birdingbeijing.com/2014/05/07/possible-hybrid-baers-pochard-x-ferruginous-duck/>





*Several postures of Bear's Pochards.*

**023 Ferruginous Duck – *aythya nyroca***

22+23-04 60 ex. in Total spread over the two days at Bear's Pochard Lake, some males paired with female Bear's.

**024 Goosander – *mergus merganser***

17-04 30 ex. on the plateau in flocks and pairs.

**025 Little Grebe – *tachybaptus ruficollis***

About 10 seen in the suitable areas

**026 Great Crested Grebe – *podiceps cristatus***

22 +23-04 6 ex. at Bear's Pochard Lake.

**027 Crested Ibis – *nipponia nipon***

11-04 2 ex, of which one in breeding plumage (with very grey head and neck) in rice fields along the way to the airport of Wuhan. These birds were released from a breeding centre nearby (and therefore not countable?)

**028 Black-crowned Night Heron – *nycticorax nycticorax***

09-04 1 ex. in flight along the way.

Common in the University park in Chengdu, building nests.

**029 Great Egret – *ardea alba* ssp: *modesta***

11-04 2 ex. in the rice fields along the way

23-04 1 ex. at Bear's Pochard Lake.

**030 Grey Heron – *ardea cinerea***

22+23-04 Common at and around Bear's Pochard Lake.

**031 Purple Heron – *ardea purpurea***

22+23-04 10 ex. in Total, most likely breeding there.

**032 Little Egret – *egretta garzetta***

11-04 5 ex. along the way.

22+23-04 Common around Bear's Pochard Lake.

**033 Great Cormorant – *phalacrocorax carbo* ssp: *sinensis***

13-04 1 ex. in flight at a small River along the way.

**034 Common Kestrel - *falco tinnunculus***

A total of 4 seen in two provinces (except Hebei).

**035 Black Kite – *milvus migrans* ssp: *lineatus*?**

A total of 15 birds seen in Sichuan province.

**036 Lammergeier – *gypaetus barbatus***

A total of 5 seen spread over the days in the Sichuan province. Very nice views of three together at Mengbi Shan, two adults and an immature.

**037 Himalayan Griffon – *gyps himalayensis***

A total of 7 birds seen in Sichuan, great views of one perched in the morning mist at Balan Shan.

**038 Cinereous Vulture – *aegypius monachus***

14-04 1 ex. with Himalayan along the way to Balan Shan, great views, the bird was in moult, quite unexpected to see it hear.

**039 Eastern Marsh Harrier – *circus spilonotus***

23-04 1 female flying above the reed at Bear's Pochard Lake.

**040 Grey-faced Buzzard – *butastur indicus***

10-04 3 ex. giving very nice flight views above the forest.

**041 Eurasian Buzzard – *buteo buteo ssp: refectus***

A total of 4 birds mainly on the plateau.

**042 Upland Buzzard – *buteo hemilasius***

17-04 A total of 8 birds seen well on the plateau

**043 Golden Eagle – *aquila chrysaetos***

A total of 4 seen in Sichuan.

**044 Watercock – *gallicrex cinerea***

23-04 1 adult male (dark blue and big) flushed by the Eastern Marsh Harrier and seen in flight at Bear's Pochard Lake.

**045 Common Moorhen – *gallinule chloropus***

A total of 4 seen in Sichuan and Hebei.

**046 Common Coot – *fulica atra***

Common at Bear's Pochard Lake.

**047 Black-Necked Crane – *grus nigricollis***

17-04 30 ex, all but one first summer birds at the plateau at several wet places.



First year birds

**048 Black-winged Stilt - *himantopus himantopus***

22+23-04 a total of 30 birds at Bear's Pochard Lake.

**049 Grey-headed Lapwing – *vanellus cinereus***

11-04 3 ex. seen in flight along the way.

**050 Pintail Snipe – *gallinago stenura***

22-04 1 ex. in flight at Bear's Pochard Lake

**051 Spotted Redshank – *tringa erythropus***

23-04 1 ex. in summer plumage at the lake.

**052 Common Greenshank – *tringa nebularia***

22+23-04 A total of 3 birds seen around the lake.

**053 Common Black-headed Gull – *larus ridibundus***

22+23-04 Common at the lake, mostly non breeding immature.

**054 Whiskered Tern – *chlidonias hybrida***

23-04 4 ex. in flight at the lake, calling.

**055 Hill Pigeon – *columba rupestris***

17 -04 1 ex. seen coming down from Mengbi Shan.



**056 Snow Pigeon – *columba leuconota***

15-04 2 ex. seen well at Balan Shan near the tunnel.

**057 Oriental Turtle Dove – *streptopelia orientalis* ssp: *orientalis***

Seen in Henan/Wuhan en Hebei, nice views big birds.

**058 Spotted Dove – *streptopelia chinensis***

Common in all provinces and mostly near inhabited area's

**059 Oriental Sops Owl – *otus sunia***

09 +10-04, many calling during the night at Dongzhai, not seen (did not try hard)

**---- *Eastern Tawny Owl/Himalayan Wood Owl – *strix nivicola****

16-04 at least 2 ex. heard in the early morning at Mengbi Shan, from the opposite site of the valley. Not seen (so not counted)

**----- *Pere David's Owl/Sichuan Wood Owl – *strix davidi****

17-04 1 ex. heard very well calling into the tape at Xuiboding Pass in the evening during the rain/snow. Not seen (so not counted)

**060 Northern Boobook/Brown Hawk Owl – *ninox scutulata* ssp: *japonica***

09+10-04 1 ex. calling and seen well in the headlight at Dongzhai, literally the first bird I saw after arrival (and long travel)

**061 House Swift – *apus nipalensis***

11-04 3 ex. seen in flight along the way to the airport.

**062 Common Kingfisher – *alcedo atthis***

A total of 2 birds in Henan and Sichuan (Chengdu city)

**063 Crested Kingfisher – *megaceryle lugubris***

11-04 1 ex. seen very well on a wite near a stream near Dongzhai reserve.

**064 Common Hoopoe – *upupa epops***

A total of 9 seen in Sichuan (on the high plateau) and Hebei.

**065 Speckled Piculet - *picumnus innominatus***

1 ex seen very well at Dongzhai reserve.

**066 Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker – *dendrocopos canicapillus***

10-04 1 ex. seen well at Dongzhai reserve.

**067 Great Spotted Woodpecker – *dendrocopos major***

10-04 1 ex. seen well at Dongzhai reserve.

**068 Grey-headed Woodpecker – *picus canus***

A total of 6 seen in Henan and Sichuan.

**069 Long-tailed Minivet – *pericrocotus ethologus***

A total of 22 ex. seen in Sichuan.

**070 Brown Shrike – *lanius cristatus* ssp: *lucionensis***

2 ex. seen on both 17 and 18-04 along the way near the high plateau.

**071 Long-tailed Shrike – *lanius schach* ssp: *schach***

14-04 3 ex. along the way in the lowlands

**\*072 SICHUAN JAY – *perisoreus internigrans***

16+17-04 a total of 5 birds seen and heard. Seen very well on the second day. Close tame and almost curious.

**073 Azure-winged Magpie – *cyanopica cyanus***

17-04 8 ex. in a flock along the way.

22+ 23-04 common in Hebei.

**074 Red-billed Blue Magpie – *urocissa erythrorhyncha***

Common in Henan and Sichuan.

**075 Common Magpie – *pica pica***

Common in Henan and Sichuan.

**076 Alpine Chough – *pyrrhocorax graculus***

A total of 7 seen on the high passes.

**077 Daurian Jackdaw – *corvus dauuricus***

17-04 70 ex. in flocks on the plateau, giving great views.



**078 Carrion Crow – *corvus corone* ssp: *orientalis***

Seen almost daily with about 2 birds a day in Sichuan but I noticed them later during my stay.

**079 Collared Crow – *corvus pectoralis***

11-04 1 ex. seen in flight on the way to Wuhan airport.

20-04 1 ex. in along the way.

This is a species in trouble.

**080 Large –billed Crow – *corvus macrorhynchos* ssp: *tebetosinensis***

Common in Sichuan.

**081 Great Tit – *parus major* ssp: *minor***

Seen in all provinces but the most common in Henan.

**082 Green-backed Tit – *parus monticolus***

Common in Sichuan.

**083 Yellow-bellied Tit – *parus spilonotus***

11-04 25 ex. in one flock at Dongzhai reserve in front of the visitors centre.

**084 Rufous-Vented Tit – *parus rubidiventris***

3 ex. in total in Sichuan.

**085 Grey-crested Tit – *parus dichrous***

The commonest tit in Sichuan and about 6 seen, mostly in pairs.

**086 Yellow-browed Tit – *sylviparus modestus***

14-04 1 ex at Longcanggou, seen very well in the scope.

**087 Barn Swallow – *hirundo rustica***

Quite common in all visited provinces.

**088 Eurasian Crag Martin – *ptyonoprogne rupestris***

15-04 2 ex. near Balan Shan flying around.

**089 Northern House Martin – *delichon urbicum***

15-04 3 ex. near a little colony at Balan Shan

**090 “Amur” Red-rumped Swallow – *cecropsis daurica* ssp: *daurica/nipalensis***

Common throughout the trip in Sichuan and Hebei. Great to see the differences again with “our” subspecies.

**091 Black-Throated Tit – *aegithalos concinnus***

Common in Sichuan and Henan in small flocks

**092 Sooty Tit – *aegithalos fuliginosus***

19+20-04 40 ex in two flocks on the way up and down in Tang Jia He

**093 Oriental Skylark – *alauda gulgula***

Seen in Henan and Sichuan, where the most common (15 seen)

**094 Collared Finchbill – *spizixos semitorques***

Common in Sichuan and Henan.

**095 Chinese Bulbul – *pycnonotus sinensis***

Common in Sichuan and 5 in total in Henan.

**096 Chestnut-headed Tesia – *oligura casteneocoronata***

24-04 1 ex. seen very well at the University grounds of Chengdu.



Hard to get a focused image....

**097 Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler – *cettia fortipes***

Commonly heard (not tried to see this time) in Sichuan and Henan.

**098 Yellow-bellied Bush Warbler – *cettia acanthizoides* ssp: *acanthizoides***

Common in Tang Jia He, singing and calling, also seen.

**099 Oriental Reed Warbler – *acrocephalus orientalis***

23-04 1 ex. singing at Bear's Pochard Lake.

**100 Dusky Warbler – *phylloscopus fuscatus***

19-04 1 ex. seen and heard well at the third hut at Tang Jia He, a migrant I suppose.

**101 Radde's Warbler – *phylloscopus schwarzi***

23-04 1 ex. seen very well in the low bushes along the lake shore of Bear's Pochard Lake, also heard well with nice buff undertail coverts and parts.

**102 Tickell's Leaf Warbler – *phylloscopus affinis***

Common in Longcanggou and 2 seen in Tang Jia He

**103 Chinese Leaf Warbler – *phylloscopus yunnanensis***

A total of 13 seen and heard at several sites in Sichuan.

**104 Pallas's Warbler – *phylloscopus proregulus***

A total of 29 migrants seen and heard in all visited provinces. Great to see them migrate over high passes, bush by bush.

**105 Lemmon-rumped Warbler – *phylloscopus chloronotus***

18-04 1 ex. at Xuiboding Pass, a dull Pallas's.

**106 Yellow-browed Warbler – *phylloscopus inornatus***

About 25 seen in the University grounds of Chengdu on both visits.

**107 Hume's Warbler – *phylloscopus humei***

Quite commonly heard in the higher parts of the mountains but also 20+ in the University grounds of Chengdu.

**108 Arctic Warbler – *phylloscopus borealis***

24-04 1 ex. seen very well at the University grounds of Chengdu, low in the bushes no yellow on the underparts.

**109 Eastern Crowned Warbler – *phylloscopus coronatus***

10-04 1 ex singing and showing well at Dongzhai Nature Reserve.

**110 Claudia's Warbler – *phylloscopus claudiae***

The commonest warbler in the visited parks in Sichuan, also in the University grounds of Chengdu. Singing and showing well.

**\*111 EMEI LEAF WARBLER – *phylloscopus emeiensis***

10-04 1 ex at Dongzhai Nature Reserve, singing. A long orange billed "pallas's like" phyllo very yellow crown, supercilium and wingbars. The structure of the bird was elongated. I know this is a strange place for the species, but it must be a local migrant on the way to the breeding area.



**\*112 KLOSS'S WARBLER - *Phylloscopus ogilviegranti***

13-04 10 ex. in a mixed flock with other passerines at Longcanggou. Great views with a lot of tail flicking (showing white in the outer tail feathers). Very yellow wing bars and supercilium.

**113 Grey-crowned Warbler – *seicercus tephrocephalus***

10-04 2 ex. at Dongzhai Nature Reserve singing and showing well, ID on song.

**114 Bianchi's Warbler – *seicercus valentini***

19-04 2 singing and giving good views at Tang Jia He. ID based on song (at home) and occurring in no good quality forest though.

21-04 5+ex. seen very well also in song at University grounds of Chengdu, quite obvious yellow wingbars with quite obvious white in the outer tail feathers.

**115 Martens's Warbler – *seicercus omeiensis***

21-05 5+ ex. at the University grounds of Chengdu. ID on song (at home), white in the outer tail and no wing bars seen on the birds.

**\*116 ALSTROM'S WARBLER – *seicercus soror***

21-05 2+ ex seen very well at the University grounds of Chengdu. ID on song (at home), the birds were dull (head pattern), with no wing bars or white in the outer tail.

**117 Chestnut-crowned Warbler – *seicercus castaniceps***

21-05 1 ex seen well at the University grounds of Chengdu.

**118 Rufous-faced Warbler – *abroscopus albogularis***

Commonly heard at Sichuan and Henan and seen a few times well.

**119 Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler – *pomatorhinus ruficollis***

12-04 2 ex. heard near Erlang Shan mountain.

21-04 1 ex. seen very well fed by mealworms at the University grounds of Chengdu. This is a rare bird in the middle of the city attracting many Chinese photographers.



*This bird turned me briefly into a "mealwormman".*

**120 Pygmy Wren-babbler – *pnoepyga pusilla***

Many heard daily in Sichuan. I did not try this time to see one.

**121 Rufous-capped Babbler – *stachyris ruficeps***

12-04 2 ex. seen well near Erlang Shan mountain.

**122 Masked Laughingthrush – *garrulax perspicillatus***

10+11-04 Common in family groups at at Dongzhai Nature Reserve.

**123 White-throated Laughingthrush – *garrulax albogularis***

19+20-04 Common in family groups at Tang Jia He.

**124 Plain Laughingthrush – *garrulax davidi***

17-04 1 ex. seen well along the way on the plateau.

**125 Giant Laughingthrush – *garrulax maximus***

16+17-04 a total of 5 birds seen and heard at Mengbi Shan. Often, while searching for the Jay, there presents made our hearts beat..



**126 Hwamei – *garrulax canorus***

10+11-04 heard and seen mainly in Dongzhai Nature Reserve, quite good views.

**127 Elliot's Laughingthrush – *garrulax ellioti***

Common in Sichuan, seen and hear daily.

**128 Red-billed Leiothrix – *leiothrix lutea***

Heard at many places in Sichuan. 21-04, 1 ex. seen University grounds of Chengdu, I do not know if this was an escaped cage bird?

**129 Golden-breasted Fulvetta – *Lioparus chrysotis***

19-04 2 ex. seen very well going up before the second hut at Tang Jia He.

**130 Spectacled Fulvetta – *alcippe ruficapilla***

12-04 2 ex. seen well near Erlang Shan mountain, nice views while searching for L.A.Pheasant.

**131 Streak-Throated Fulvetta - *alcippe cinereiceps* ssp: *cinereiceps***

18-04 2 ex. at the low bushes of at Xuiboding Pass. Saw them well, with the streaky head and throat.

**132 Grey-cheeked Fulvetta – *alcippe morrisonia***

13-04 1 ex. seen well near Erlang Shan mountain, nice views while searching for L.A.Pheasant

**133 White-collared Yuhina – *yuhina diademata***

13-04 2 ex. seen well near Erlang Shan mountain, nice views while searching for L.A.Pheasant

Common at Tang Jia He.

**134 Spectacled Parrotbill – *paradoxornis conspicillatus***

12-04 3 ex. at Erlang Shan mountain.

19-04 1 ex. with a flock of Przewalski's at Tang Jia He's second hut.

**135 Vinous-Throated Parrotbill – *paradoxornis webbianus***

The commonest parrotbill and seen in all visited provinces.

**\*136 GREY-HOODED PARROTBILL – *paradoxornis zappeyi***

13-04 2 ex. near a nesting site along the main track in Longcanggou. Great views, the birds where noisy and did not have a nest yet.



*The only digi I could make of this movable species*

**\*137 PRZEWALSKI'S PARROTBILL – paradoxornis przewalskii**

19-04 10 ex. seen in three “flocks” around the second and third hut at Tang Jia He. Great views, also heard well, some where in pairs, some in small (winter?) flocks. Worth the hike.. see <http://www.dutchbirding.nl/news.php?id=933> for the full story.



**138 Reed/Northern Parrotbill – paradoxornis heudei ssp:??**

22+23-04 3 ex. seen very well around Bear's Pochard Lake. The subspecies is a question because there just in the middle between Reed and Northern.





*One of the birds photographed just a few days later by Mark Sutton*

**139 Japanese White-eye – *zosterops japonicas***

Seen in Henan (most common) and Sichuan in small flocks.

**140 Goldcrest – *regulus regulus***

Common at the higher places in Sichuan.

**141 Winter Wren – *troglodytes troglodytes* ssp: *talifuensis***

Quite common in the coniferous upper forest of Sichuan.

**142 Eurasian Nuthatch – *sitta europaea* ssp: *seorsa***

1 ex. in the Erlang Shan area. Quite buff underparts.

**143 Chinese Nuthatch – *sitta villosa***

20-04 1 ex. on the way down at Tang Jia He.

**144 Hodgson's Treecreeper – *certhia hodgsoni***

18-04 2 ex. seen very well at Xuiboding Pass, feeding on low branches.

**145 Wallcreeper – *tichodroma muraria***

15-04 1 ex. in summerplumage seen very well and close along the road

**146 Crested Myna – *acridotheres cristatellus***

Common in all visited provinces except Sichuan.

**147 Red-billed Starling – *sturnus sericeus***

Common in Henan and Wuhan.

**148 White-cheeked Starling – *sturnus cineraceus***

Seen in all provinces, migrants in the south and resident and most common in Hebei.

**149 Blue Whistling Thrush – *myiophonus caeruleus***

10-04 2 ex. at Dongzhai Nature Reserve.

2 seen in Sichuan, one in the University grounds of Chengdu.

**150 Long-tailed Thrush – *zoothera dixonii* ssp: ??**

16+17-04 3 birds in total, seen well (after some search) and heard very well. Big thrush with very nice "fat" "scallop" on the underparts. For me my second ever time I saw this species.

**151 Chinese Blackbird – *turdus (merula) mandarinus***

11-04 1 ex. seen along the way

**152 Chestnut Thrush – *turdus rubrocanus***

The commonest thrush in Sichuan, seen daily with about 10 birds a day.

**153 Kessler's Thrush – *turdus kessleri***

17-04 10 ex. seen well along the way on the plateau.

**154 Naumann's Thrush – *turdus nammanni***

A total of 10 birds in two wintering flocks at Erlang Shan. Some birds showed many intermediate characters with Dusky Thrush, but looked mostly like Naumann's.

**155 Chinese Thrush – *turdus mupinensis***

17-04 1 ex. seen very well in song at Mengbi Shan.

**156 White-browed Shortwing – *brachypteryx montana***

21-04 1 female in a small bush at the University grounds of Chengdu with a male Siberian Rubythroat.



The "wrong" Shortwing (I hoped it to be a Gould's) by Tang Jun, and the Rubythroat enjoyed the mealworms.

**157 Siberian Rubythroat – *luscinia calliope***

21-04 1 male in the same bush at the University grounds of Chengdu.

**158 Orange-flanked Bush Robin – *tarsiger rufilatus***

A total of 5 birds seen on the higher slopes of the mountains of Sichuan. All singing males (with a blue supercilium)

**159 Golden Bush Robin – *tarsiger chrysaea***

19-04 1 male at very close range in full view just above the second hut at Tang Jia He. What a bird!

**160 Oriental Magpie Robin – *copsychus saularis***

A total of 4 birds at the University grounds of Chengdu

**161 Black Redstart – *phoenicurus ochruros* ssp: *rufiventris***

17-04 7 ex. seen well along the way on the plateau.

**162 Hodgson's Redstart – *phoenicurus hodgsoni***

2 males seen along the way in Sichuan, both near settlements.

**163 White-throated Redstart – *phoenicurus schisticeps***

The commonest redstart and recorded daily in Sichuan.

**164 Daurian Redstart – *phoenicurus aureus***

15-04 1 ex. seen along the road to Mengbi Shan in a lower area.

**165 Blue-fronted Robin – *phoenicurus frontalis***

The second most common redstart in Sichuan, seen daily.

**166 Plumbous Redstart – *rhyacornis fuliginosa***

Common in all the streams in Sichuan.

**167 Grandala – *grandala coelicolor***

18-04 30 birds in one flock on one of the high passes we crossed on the way, very nice just beside the road.

**168 White-crowned Forktail – *enicurus leschenaultia* ssp: *sinensis***

10-04 1 ex. seen very well at Dongzhai Nature Reserve.

**169 Siberian Stonechat – *saxicola maura*? ssp: *przewalski***

2 ex. seen in Henan and Sichuan, not paid attention to the ID.

**170 Grey Bushchat – *saxicola ferreus***

13-04 1 male at Erlang Shan.

**171 Blue Rock Thrush – *monticola solitaries* ssp: *pandoo***

18-04 1 male along the way.

**172 Asian Verditer Flycatcher – *eumyias thalassinus***

12-04 3 ex. seen very well near Erlang Shan mountain, nice views while searching for L.A.Pheasant



Great to see them again..

**\*173 CHINESE (BLUE) FLYCATCHER – *cyornis glaucicomans***

21+24-04 1 male seen very well at the University grounds of Chengdu. Orange throat seen well.



Chinese (out of focus sorry, but see the throat) and the male Fujian

**\*174 FUJIAN FLYCATCHER – *niltava davidi***

21+24-04 2 a pair seen very well at the University grounds of Chengdu. A big flycatcher.

**175 Small Niltava – *niltava macgrigoriae***

21-04 1 female at the University grounds of Chengdu. Hard to separate from female Fujian, smaller with no white belly.

**176 Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher – *culicicapa ceylonensis***

19-04 1 ex. on the way up at Tang Jia He.

**177 Brown Dipper – *cinclus pallasii***

18-04 2 ex. seen along the way.

**178 Mrs. Gould's Sunbird – *aethopyga gouldiae***

The common sunbird in Sichuan, seen daily.

**179 Russet Sparrow – *passer rutilans***

Common in Sichuan and Henan.

**180 Eurasian Tree Sparrow – *passer montanus***

Common in all visited provinces.

**181 Rufous-breasted Accentor – *prunella strophiate***

A total of 9 seen spread over most days in Sichuan.

**\*182 MAROON-BACKED ACCENTOR – *prunella immaculate***

A total of 7 seen spread over three days on the highest passes in Sichuan, some singing in pairs, some still in small winter flocks.





*My last accentor, taken by Tang Jun who took his lens always with him in the forest*

**1823 Grey Wagtail – motacilla cinerea**

Common in Sichuan and Henan

**184 White Wagtail – motacilla alba ssp: alboides (S) + leucopsis (H+H)**

Two subspecies seen daily in all visited provinces S=Sichuan, H= Henan and Hebei

**185 Blyth's Pipit – anthus godlewskii**

20-04 1 ex. surprisingly found sitting on a wire just outside Tang Jia He and seen well. A migrant.

**186 Olive-backed Pipit – anthus hodgsoni ssp: yunnanensis + hodgsoni**

Seen in all visited provinces and common in wintering flocks in Sichuan, also high in the mountains. Also saw them migrating. Not paid too much attention to the subspecies but based on mantle striping saw both.

**187 Rosy Pipit – anthus roseatus**

Common in the higher parts of Sichuan, but not yet colonized the high mountains.

**188 Brambling – fringilla montifringilla**

Very common in winter flocks in the fields of Henan + 1 seen in Hebei.

**189 Oriental Greenfinch – carduelis sinica**

A total of 5 birds seen in Hebei and Sichuan (University grounds of Chengdu)

**190 Chinese Beautiful Rosefinch – carpodacus davidianus**

17-04 10 ex. in one flock along the way while stopping for lunch, feeding in a field.

**191 Chinese White-browed Rosefinch – carpodacus dubius**

Common at Mengbi Shan and at Xuiboding Pass. Typical calls of the males was heard everywhere.

**192 Streaked Rosefinch – carpodacus rubicilloides**

15-04 2 a pair seen well coming down Balan Shan, just below the summit. Big birds.

**193 Grey-headed Bullfinch – pyrrhula erythaca**

12-04 4 ex in one flock seen very well at Erlang Shan area.

17-04 4 ex. along the way to Xuiboding Pass.

**194 Chinese Grosbeak – eophona migratoria**

21-04 4 ex. pairs at the University grounds of Chengdu.

**195 White-winged Grosbeak – mycerobas carnipes**

Quite common at Mengbi Shan, in pairs.

**196 Godlewski's Bunting – emberiza godlewski**

15-04 1 ex. seen at a pie stop along the way.

**197 Meadow Bunting – emberiza cloides**

Common around Bear's Pochard Lake.

**198 Little Bunting – emberiza pusilla**

Very common in Sichuan (wintering in flocks on the fields) and at Bear's Pochard Lake.

**199 Yellow-Throated Bunting – emberiza elegans**

13-04 1 male singing at the hotel grounds near Longcanggou

**200 Black-faced Bunting – emberiza spodocephala**

23-04 2 ex. along the shore of Bear's Pochard Lake, migrants.

## 201 Pallas's Reed Bunting – *emberiza pallasi*

Common around the shores of Bear's Pochard Lake.



*Not in focus, but it gives an idea about the transitional plumage many birds were in.*



Probably the rarest Holarctic duck Bear's Pochard, one of the 26 seen.

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