Robin’s Galore
A report of a short trip to see two difficult Robin species in China.

Itinerary
08-06 After arrival in Chengdu from Amsterdam strait to the hotel (Wen Jun Mansion) and birded in the park in the afternoon
09-06 Drove with a few scarce birding stops (mainly at the end near the park) to Jui Zhai Gou (JZ).
10-06 Birded al day at Jui Zhai Gou, first at Panda Lake later at the toilet houses near the boardwalk and at the end at Panda Lake again.
11-06 Drove with birding stops (again mainly at the end) to Changquing N.P (CH)
12-06 Birded all day at Changquing N.P.
13-06 Birded all day at Changquing N.P and walk up the ridge later that afternoon.
14-06 After birding in the morning on the route to the G5, drove back to Chengdu.
15-06 Flew back in the afternoon to Amsterdam.

*AAA = New species, including Holarctic (13), *AAA = New holarctic species (12)


The Birds
001 Chinese Bamboo Partridge – Bambusicola thoracicus
14-06 2 birds, a pair, seen very well crossing the road and walking in the open (!!) in a garden driving from CH to the G5. Most likely a pair, Seen very well after hearing it so many times during former trips!
002 **Blood Pheasant** – *ithaginis cruentus*
A total of 3 birds seen well at CH, often first found on call.

003 **Koklass Pheasant** – *pucrasia macrolopa* ssp: *xanthospila*
A total of 3 birds seen when driving up and down at CH, one male seen extremely well.

004 **Common Pheasant** – *phasianus colchicus* ssp: *strauchi* +??
A total of 3 birds seen spread over the trip, all without the white neck ring,
**005 GOLDEN PHEASANT – CHRYSOLOPHUS PICTUS**
A total of 23 seen at CH, mostly young males and females, but one immaculate male. The birds where feeding out in the open on the road, mostly in the late afternoon.

**006 Mandarin Duck – aix galericulata**
11-06 2 ex. in flight on the river. Not seen well, but well enough for an id. but not in breeding plumage.

**007 Crested Ibis – nipponia nippon**
A total of at least 11 birds in a small colony in a village close to (3 Km) CH. Seen sleeping in trees and feeding in the rice fields. One bird seen near the breeding center in flight. Heard calling, many birds where in the grayish breeding plumage.

![Crested Ibis, feeding in the rice fields and very shy](image)

**008 Black-crowned Night Heron – nycticorax nictycorax**
A total of 9 birds seen near Changdu and along the expressway to it.

**009 Chinese Pond Heron – ardeola bacchus**
Quite common in the rice field area’s

**010 Eastern Cattle Egret – bubulcus ibis ssp: coromandus**
Common in the rice field in little flocks.

**011 Grey Heron – ardea cinerea**
14-06 2 ex. in flight along the way.

**012 Little Egret – egretta garzetta**
14-06 3 ex. near the Crested Ibis breeding centre.

**013 Chinese Goshawk – accipiter soloensis**
14-06 1 ex. seen well perched along the way to the G5, giving superb views.

**014 Eurasian Buzzard – buteo buteo**
12-06 1 ex. in flight at GH.

**015 Speckled Woodpigeon – Columba hodgsonii**
About 22 seen in several flocks at JZ and CH.

**016 Oriental Turtle Dove – streptopelia orientalis ssp: orientalis**
Common in the area near CH

**017 Spotted Dove - streptopelia chinensis**
Common around Chengdu and on the way from JZ to CH.

**018 Large Hawk-Cuckoo – cuculus sparverioides**
Heard and seen almost daily in low numbers.
019 Indian Cuckoo – cuculus miceopterus
2 birds heard at the CH area, not seen.

020 Himalayan Cuckoo – cuculus saturates
12-06 1 ex. heard singing at CH.

021 Lesser Cuckoo – cuculus poliocephalus
4 birds hear at the JZ and CH area, two of them seen well.

022 Common Koel – eudynamys scolopaceus
12-06 1 ex. heard singing near the village at CH

*023 TAWNY FISH OWL – KETUPA FLAVIPES
11+14-06 2 birds at a nesting/feeding site near the road between CH and the G5. Giving very nice views, even seen preening. Big owls, with long ear plumes and spotted under parts.

024 Salim Ali’s Swift – apus salimali
09-06 30 ex. in small flocks along the way to JZ.

025 House Swift – apus nipalensis
Common around Chengdu.

026 Black-capped Kingfisher – halcyon pileata
11-06 1 ex. seen sitting near a stream, nice views.

027 Common Kingfisher – alcedo atthis
08-06 2 ex. at one of the city parks in Chengdu.

028 Crested Kingfisher – ceryle rudis
14-06 1 ex, seen perched at a wire above a river near the Crested Ibises.
029 Great Spotted Woodpecker – dendrocopos major
A total of 3 seen spread over the trip, not seen well to say something about the subspecies.

030 Grey-headed Woodpecker – picus canus
14-06 1 ex. heard well along the way.

*031 SWINHOE’S MINIVET – PERICROCOTUS CANTONENSIS
11-06 1 ex. seen very well near a little building along the way between the G5 and CH. Nice views with a large obvious white forehead and buff rump. A species I missed on former trips.

032 Long-tailed Shrike – lanius schach ssp: tricolor
14-06 2 ex along the way to the G5.

033 Grey-backed Shrike – lanius sphenocercus
09-06 1 ex. on a fence, along the way.

034 Black-naped Oriole – oriolus chinensis
14-06 1 ex. seen along the way.

035 Black Drongo – dicrurus macrocercus
11-06 2 ex. seen along the way.

036 Ashy Drongo – dicrurus leucophaeus
11-06 1 ex. seen well along the way, a very grey bird.

037 Hair-crested Drongo – dicrurus hottentottus
14-06 1 ex. seen at CH, with the tail tips up curved.

038 Red-billed Blue Magpie – urocissa erythrorhyncha
Commonly seen along the trip.

039 Common Magpie – pica pica
Commonly seen during the trip.

040 Eurasian Nutcracker – nucifraga caryocatactes
Quite common in the higher parts of the trip.

041 Red-billed Chough – pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax
09-06 4 ex. near JZ near the road.

042 Carrion Crow – corvus corone ssp: orientalis
2 birds at Panda Lake at JZ.

043 Large-billed Crow – corvus macrorhynchos
Quite common mostly at CH.

044 Great Tit – parus major ssp: echopedicatus
11-06 1 ex. along the way.

045 Green-backed Tit – parus monticolis
10-06 2 ex. at JZ.

046 Yellow-bellied Tit – parus venustulus
14-06 30 ex. in two flocks in the lowlands near the place of the ibises.

047 Rufous Vented Tit – parus rubidiventris
09-06 1 ex. near JZ.

048 Coal Tit – parus ater ssp: ater group
10-06 1 ex. at JZ.

*049 PERE DAVID’S TIT – PARUS DAVIDI
10-06 2 ex. seen well, a pair at JZ, nice tit.

050 Grey-crested Tit – parus dichrous
09-06 2 ex. at a stop near JZ.
051 Barn Swallow - hirundo rustica
Quite common during the trip.

052 Eurasian Crag Martin – ptyonoprogne rupestris
Small numbers seen in the rocky outcrops on the higher levels visited.

053 Asian House Martin – delichon dasypus
14-05 10 ex. in one colony along the way.

054 “Eastern” Red-rumped Swallow – cecropis daurica ssp: daurica
Quite common during the trip, all birds with heavy streaking on the underparts, looking dirty when seen from far.

055 Black-throated Tit – aegithalos concinnus
A total of 30 birds seen in two flocks at Chengdu and JZ.

*056 SOOTY TIT – AEGITHALOS FULIGINOSUS
13-06 8 ex. in one flock seen well at the highest point in CH, great views.

057 Oriental Skylark – alauda gulgula
09-06 2 ex. in song along the way.

058 Collared Finchbill – spizixos semitorques
Common in the province Shaanxi.

059 Brown-breasted Bulbul – pycnonotus xanthorrhous
Common in the province Shaanxi.

060 Light-vented Bulbul - pycnonotus sinensis
Common in the province Chengdu.

061 Manchurian Bush Warbler – cettia canturians
Many heard lower down on the way back from CH to the G5.

*062 CHESTNUT-CROWNED BUSH WARBLER – CETTIA MAJOR SSP: MAJOR
12-06 I seen well in the open (face on) with the obvious chestnut crown at CH.

*063 ABERRANT BUSH WARBLER – CETTIA FLAVOLIVACEA SSP: INTRICATA
13-06 I ex. seen and heard very well at CH, a drab dull bush warbler with a bit of a long tail and an obvious whistling song.

063 Yellow-bellied Bush Warbler – cettia acanthizoides ssp: acanthizoides
Common in CH.

064 Russet Bush Warbler – bradypterus mandelli ssp: melanorhynchus
14-06 2 ex. seen very well while having lunch at CH.

[Russet Bush Warbler, giving nice views by Zang Yongwen]
065 Chinese Leaf Warbler – phylloscopus yunnanensis
Some singing birds in and near JZ and common in CH.

066 Sichuan Leaf Warbler – phylloscopus forresti ssp: pulcher
About 20 birds seen around (at the pass) and in JZ. A “pallas’s type” warbler with an ID on song.

067 Hume’s Leaf Warbler – phylloscopus humei
Commonly singing at the higher parts at JZ and CH.

068 Greenish Warbler – phylloscopus trochiloides ssp: trochiloides
Common at JZ and surroundings and CH. Some birds head a more thick wingbar than typical others.

069 Large-billed Leaf Warbler – phylloscopus magnirostris
Common at JZ and CH.

070 Claudia’s Leaf Warbler – phylloscopus reguloides
13-06 2 ex, a pair at a nest in CH. The birds were moving in the typical way as a Black and White warbler.

071 Bianchi’s Warbler – seicercus omeiensis
Common at JZ, id on song.

*072 MARTENS ‘S WARBLER – SEICERCUS OMEIENSIS
Common and singing at CH. Id on song, again one of these the same looking seicercus..

073 Pygmy Wren-Babbler – pnoepyga pusilla
2 birds heard (calling and singing) at JZ and one of them seen very well.

The Pygmy wren by Tang Jun not totally in focus, but good enough for me. Spectacled Parrotbill by Tang Jun, the commonest forest Pb.

074 Rufous-capped Babbler – stachyris ruficeps
11-06 1 ex. seen a bit by accident along the way.

075 White-browed Laughing-thrush – garrulax sannio
Common spread over the trip and the most common in Chengdu’s city parks.

076 Elliot’s Laughing-thrush – garrulax elliottii
09-06 1 ex. at the pass near JZ.
Common in CH.

*077 GREAT PARROTBILL – CONOSTOMA AEMODIUM
13-06 5 ex. seen well at CH, after knowing the call they are easy to find, huge bird.

*078 THREE-TOED PARROTBILL – PARADOXORNIS PARADOXUS
13-06 1 ex. seen well after locating on its strange call (like an old radio), big parrotbill with a black line through and behind the eye, pale eye and orange yellow bill.

*079 SPECTACLED PARROTBILL – PARADOXORNIS CONSPICILLATUS
13-06 15 ex, seen in small flocks or alone at CH.
080 Vinous-throated Parrotbill – paradoxornis webbianus
08-06 About 10 birds at Chengdu and a few along the river between CH and G5 on the way back.

081 Japanese White-eye – zosterops japonicas
Small groups seen in the low parts of CH.

082 Goldcrest – regulus regulus
About 4 birds heard at CH.

083 Winter Wren – troglodytes troglodytes
11-06 1 ex. heard along the way.

084 Eurasian Nuthatch – sitta europaea ssp: sinensis
10-06 2 ex. at JZ, buff colored underparts.

085 Crested Myna – acridotheres cristatellus
2 birds seen along the way when going north (10th) and later south (14th).

086 Red-billed Starling – sturnus sericeus
Common mostly in the north (CH).

087 Blue Whistling Thrush – myophonus caeruleus
Common at CH.

088 Chinese Blackbird – turdus mandarinus
08-06 7 ex. Chengdu in the city parks.

089 Chestnut Thrush – turdus rubrocanus
A total of 3 seen in and near JZ.

090 Chinese Thrush – turdus mupinensis
13-06 3 ex. singing at the highest point in CH, one showed well, looks larger than song.

*091 RUFOUS-HEADED ROBIN – LUSCINIA RUFICEPS
10-06 1 male seen well at JZ after 7 hours of “work” See in Dutch the story:
Vandaag mijn poging gedaan om de RHRobin te zien te krijgen. Na de foto’s op surfbirds van Pete Morris en Alen Lewis was ik gealarmeerd over mijn slagingskansen gezien het veelvuldig gebruik van tapes voor deze soort in het gebied. Ik begreep in de dagen dat we naar deze plek reden dat er dit jaar maar twee!! vogels aanwezig zijn in het park. Een bij de plek van Ben (Panda Lake) welke na de platen van Surfbirds niet meer is gezien....en een vogel op de reguliere plek, welke dit voorjaar nagenoeg alleen maar gehoord wordt door de bezoekende vogelaars. We begonnen vanochtend om 07.30 tegen beter weten in bij Panda Lake zonder succes, dus toen maar op naar de "nachtmerrie" vogel van de oude plek. Deze liet zich rond 09.30 voor het eerst horen en later door het bos schieten (grijis lijf, rode bovenkop, 1 op de schaai van Lethaby) en vervolgens heeft het tot 15.00 geduurd voordat we, na een goed "plan F" van Tang om de nabij gelegen stroom over te steken, we de vogel dichtbij genoeg hoorde om een kans te maken hem te zien. Tot vier keer toe liet hij zich van dichtbij horen maar telkens kregen we niets te zien. Ik had inmiddels geen knieën meer over en zeg neer op de bosgrond als een te dikke Panda toen de vogel op enkelhoogte een strofe liet horen uit een bamboe struweel. Tang, die veel betere ogen heeft dan deze oude Panda, knielde en keek met kijk in de bamboestruweel zonder dat hij beweging van te voren zag. Opeens focuste hij en melde "drie meter vooruit", waarop ik mijn kijk in een blobje in de bamboe......"gvd dat is hem" riep ik uit in het Nederlands (nieuw woord voor Tang, of eigenlijk twee), de vogel zat stil te poetsen en liet uit eigen beweging om de zoveel tijd een zangstrofe horen. Ik heb alle kenmerken geweldig kunnen zien, zelfs het staartpatroon, wat een droomsoort!! weliswaar in de dichte bamboe waardoor focussen met mijn fototoestel niet ging. De vogel bleef minimaal drie minuten zo zitten en na een beweging van mijn kant, verdween hij. Ons en vooral mij in volle blijdschap achterlatend. Missie geslaagd, hoewel geen foto en nu op naar een andere nachtegaal. Site at the "Boardwalk" place near the two toilet houses: http://observado.org/waarneming/view/76938871

*092 BLACKTHROAT – LUSCINIA OBSCURA
12+13-06 3 males at CH.
Seen well after 6.5 hours of work. Saw the bird crossing the path twice when it “freezed a profile” twice, also saw it in flight with the nice tail pattern with white in the tail. Photo by Zang Yongwen of this famous male (taken on 04-06-2013). Also seen on 13-06 two more males on that date (heard only), a bit further up the road
http://observado.org/waarneming/view/76939560
The famous male by Tang Jun taken a few days before my visit.

093 White-throated Redstart – phoenicurus schisticeps
09-06 4 ex. at the pass before entering JZ.

094 Daurian Redstart – phoenicurus auroreus
Quite common during the trip at all visited places.

095 Plumbous Water Redstart – rhyacornis fuliginosa
Common in the streams

096 White-capped Water Redstart – chaimarrornis leucocephalus
A bit less common than 095 in the streams.

097 White-crowned Forktail – enicurus leschenaultia ssp: sinensis
13+14-06 a total of 4 birds at CH, nice views.

098 Grey Bushchat – saxicola ferreus
A total of 4 birds at the Shaanxi area.

099 Blue Rock Thrush – monticola solitaries ssp: pandoo
09+11-06 2 ex. around JZ

100 Ferruginous Flycatcher – muscicapa ferruginea
10-06 1 ex. at JZ.
13-06 2 ex. giving nice views at CH.

101 Rufous-gorgetted Flycatcher – ficedula strophiata
10-06 2 ex., a pair at JZ, nice views.

102 Taiga Flycatcher – ficedulla albicilla
10-06 1 male a migrant at JZ while searching for 091

103 Eurasian Tree Sparrow – passer montanus
Common all over the visited areas.

104 Russet Sparrow – passer rutilans
Common in the Shaanxi province.
105 Grey Wagtail – motacilla cinerea
Common in all visited streams.

106 White Wagtail – motacilla alba ssp: alboides
Quite common in both visited provinces.

107 Oriental Greenfinch – carduelis sinica
11-06 1 ex. seen along the road.
Common in and around Chengdu

108 Common Rosefinch – carpodacus erythrinus
11-06 1 heard singing (not seen) along the road.

109 Vinaceous Rosefinch – carpodacus vinaceus
A total of 6 seen (one ad. Male) at CH. Nice views.

110 Chinese White-browed Rosefinch – carpodacus dubius
09-06 3 ex. near the pass near JZ, good views of a male and two females.

111 Chinese Grosbeak – eophona migratoria
08-06 3 ex. a pair with young in Chengdu city park.

112 Godlewski’s Bunting – emberiza godlewskii
1 male along the way to JZ, seen well near a quarry.

113 Yellow-throated Bunting – emberiza elegans
A total of 3 singing males seen near the hotel at CH.

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