



## 25 Days Sichuan + Yunnan Birding Tour Report

**Reporter:** Steven An

**Participants:** 10 Pax+ 1 Tour Leader

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15<sup>th</sup>. May. -2<sup>nd</sup>. June. 2017 (Sichuan Tour)

### Day 1 Chengdu Arrival.

After Picked up the group from Chengdu around Lunch time, we took the flight to the Spring city Kunming in Yunnan Province, After arrived, we drove straight towards Chuxiong city( 3 hours), over night in Chuxiong, so basically, the first day is a transferring day .

### Day 2 Chuxiong to Dali

Today, We got up very early in the morning, leave 5:30 from the hotel, after 30 minutes drive, we had reached to Zixishan or Zixi Mountain, which is a very famous National Forest Park in Yunnan province, the forest coverage rate has reached to 92%. we tried first on the road for the Mrs.



**Chinese Thrush**

Hume's Pheasant while it was still a little bit dark, but failed to find one, then we had a picnic breakfast nearby the top, while we were having breakfast, we had a female Grey-chinned Minivet flying over us and landed on the tree not far away, that was our first bird here, later on, we saw a small group of Black-browed Bushtit moved around the tree in front of us. a Godlew'ski's Bunting perching on a tree top and singing. After breakfast, we

spent most of the morning walked on the road nearby the top of the mountain, that yielded us with lots of birds: Red-tailed Minla, Spectacled Fulvetta, Yunnan Fulvetta, Rusty-capped Fulvetta, Blyth's leaf Warbler, Ferruginous flycatcher, Green-backed Tit, Japanese Tit, Two-barred Warbler, Ultramarine flycatcher, Hodgeson's tree creeper, Bar-tailed tree creeper, Chinese Thrush, Ashy-throated warbler, Davidson's leaf warbler, Olive-backed Pipit, Grey Bushchat, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, Mountain Bulbul, Grey-crowned Warbler, Black-headed Sibia, Chestnut-crowned Warbler, Mrs Gould's Sunbird, White-collared Yuhina, Yellow-bellied Fantail, Black-faced Warbler, Blue-winged Minla, Black-headed Greenfinch, Blyth's Shrike Babbler, Yunnan, Chestnut-vented, Giant Nuthatch, Speckled Piculet, Brown-breasted Bulbul, Chinese Blue Flycatcher(Blue-throated Flycatcher/Blue-throated Niltava),

**Contact:** Steven An

[Info@chinabirdingtours.com](mailto:Info@chinabirdingtours.com)

[www.chinabirdingtours.com](http://www.chinabirdingtours.com)



Rufous-bellied Niltava, Red-billed Liothrix, Russet Sparrow.

In the afternoon, We drove to Dali city, which is a very famous ancient town in Yunnan, tourists rush there for the beautiful Cang mountain and the Er hai Lake. we reached to the city in the late afternoon and went straight to Cangshan Mountain Nature Reserve, where our big target was Lady Amherst's Pheasant. we arrived there in perfect time and we got good luck, we saw in total of 6 in different locations, male, female and



**Lady Amherst's Pheasant**

juvenile, that was fantastic!! Some other birds this afternoon included White-browed Fulvetta, Black-streaked Scimitar Babbler, Yellow-throated Bunting, Ultrastrine's Flycatcher, Black-headed Greenfinch, White-collared Yuhina, Siberian Stonechat.

It was really great, more than 45 species a day.

### **Day 3 Cangshan Mountain in Dali**

Early in the morning, we went up to Cangshan Mountain again, met with Lady Amherst's Pheasant family once more, they were having breakfasts on the road ,almost the same site as yesterday afternoon. we did not spend much time for the pheasant since everyone had a very good view already, so we drove all the way up to the end of the road and began our walk from there, the



**Lady Amherst's Pheasant(Juvenile Male)**

short distance walk rewarded us with Streak-breasted,Black-streaked Scimitar Babbler, Black-headed Greenfinch, Japanese White-eye, the cute and shy Rufous-tailed Babbler(Moupinia), very noisy Spotted Nutcracker, White-winged Grosbeak, Blyth's Leaf Warbler, Alpine Leaf Warbler, the singing Russet Bush Warbler, Aberrant Bush Warbler and Brown Bush Warbler, a beautiful Common Rosefinch and an female White-bellied

Redstart. Verditer Flycatcher, Black-browed Bushtit, Elliot's Laughingthrush, Asian House Martin. After, we went down the road, saw Spot-winged Grosbeak, Grey-crested Tit, Rufous-vented Tit, Grey-headed Bull finch, Chestnut-tailed Minla, Bar-throated Minla, Red-billed Blue Magpie. We finished birding around 11:30,then drove back to Dali city for lunch, after a quick and tasty dumpling lunch, we started our long drive (6 hours) to Bai hua ling in Gaoligong Mountains.

Contact: Steven An

[Info@chinabirdingtours.com](mailto:Info@chinabirdingtours.com)

[www.chinabirdingtours.com](http://www.chinabirdingtours.com)



#### **Day 4: Gaoligong Mountain**

Gaoligong mountain is a mountainous range located in western and northern Yunnan province, its high forest coverage and richness in flora and fauna has made the mountain become a very ideal destination for biologist and ecologist to do research and study. It is also one of the top birding destination in China. the local farmers have built up hides in different areas of the mountain, if you do not want to walk for birding, you could just choose to stay in the hides, very productive,too, you could see a lot of species without any efforts and in a very close distance. Today, we birded at the high elevation in primitive forests in the morning, and stayed in the hides in the afternoon. Birds we saw in this morning : 2 Mountain Bammbuo Partridges, Spotted Forktail, Bar-throated Minla, Blue-winged Minla, Chestnut-crowned Warbler, Beautiful Sibia, White-throated Fantail, Red-tailed Laughingthrush, Asian Lesser Cuckoo, Wedge-billed Wren Babbler(Only by Rich),Yellow-throated Fulvetta, Whiskered Yuhina, Rufous-bellied Niltava, Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher, Fire-breasted Flowerpecker, Black Eagle, Black-throated Parrotbill.



**Red-tailed Laughingthrush**

In the afternoon, we went to the hides, Blue Rock Thrush, Red-tailed Laughingthrush, Small Niltava, Scarlet-faced Liocichla, Silver-eared Mesia, Large Niltava,Black-breasted Thrush, Grey bushchat, Mountain Bamboo Partridge, Yunan Fulvetta, Chestnut-vented Nuthatch, Flavescent Bulbul, Red-throated Partridge, Rusty-fronted Barwing , Crested Finchbill, Yellow-cheeked Tit, Rufous-capped Babbler, Black-headed Sibia, Striated Bulbul, Great Barbet, Dark-sided Flycatcher,



**Rusty-fronted Barwing**

Blue-winged Laughingthrush. On the way back to our guesthouse, we met a beautiful Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon perching on a tree top and staring around, really nice view.

#### **Day 5 Gaoligong Mountain**

We went up to the primitive forest again, but not very fruitful; Mountain Bamboo Partridge

Contact: Steven An

[Info@chinabirdingtours.com](mailto:Info@chinabirdingtours.com)

[www.chinabirdingtours.com](http://www.chinabirdingtours.com)



occurred at the same section of the road, a singing Yellow-cheeked Tit, Bianchi's Warbler, very loudly calling Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush. Yellow-browed Tit, the secretive Red-headed Trogon, Snowy-browed Flycatcher and a Hill Partridge. In the afternoon, we went to a different



hides, saw Beautiful Sibia, Grey Bushchat, Rufous-capped Babbler, Blue-winged Laughingthrush, Red-billed Blue Magpie Golden-throated Barbet, Great Barbet, Blue-throated Barbet, Red-tailed Laughingthrush Scarlet-faced Liocichla. Before we headed back to our guesthouse, we had found a pair of Brown-winged Parrotbill nearby the hide, a great gift to everyone, but not everyone saw them well.

#### **Day 6 Gaoligong Mountain**

We went up to the higher mountain again, we tried a different trail and targeted for

#### **Scarlet-faced Liocichla**

Wedge-billed Wren Babbler, Gould's Shortwing, Grey-bellied Wren Babbler, Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler but without any luck for any of them, they might have moved very high and we did not have enough time to stay longer. Some other good birds we saw there; Bay Woodpecker, Yunnan Fulvetta, Slaty-backed Flycatcher(Female), Mountain Bulbul, Grey-bellied Tesia, Blyth's Shrike Babbler(F/M), Greater Yellowthroat, Grey-cheeked Warbler, Black-faced Warbler, White-throated Fantail, Short-billed Minivet. We left Gaoligong mountain at about 10:30 and spent about 20 minutes on the way for Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Green-billed Malkoha. Then we headed to Lijiang for the rest of the day.

#### **Day 7 Lijiang**

Lijiang is another popular travel destination in Yunnan, it has many well reserved ancient towns, beautiful snow-capped Mountains (Jade Dragon Snow Mountain) and it is located at the upper streams of the longest river of Yangtze of China, it is also not far away from Shangri-La. Today, We got up early in the morning, and drove up a mountain to 2800 meters in search of rare Blyth's Laughingthrush(White-speckled Laughingthrush), but did not have luck, not even heard any calls. Our first bird here was Grey-winged Blackbird, some other birds here we saw here were the very common White-collared Yuhina, Siberian Stonechat, a group of Chinese Babax, Elliot's Laughingthrush, Large-billed Crow, Russet Sparrow, Fire-breasted Flowerpecker, Speckled Piculet Common Rosefinch, Grey-chinned Minivet, Black-headed Sibia, a flying over Himalayan Cuckoo Small group of White-browed Fulvetta, Black-browed Bushtits, the cute Black-bibbed Tit, Spotted Nutcracker, Yellow-throated Bunting, Fujian Nuthatch, Fire-capped Tit, Black-faced Warbler, Spectacled Fulvetta. On the way back, we stopped at a possible habitat to look for

Contact: Steven An

[Info@chinabirdingtours.com](mailto:Info@chinabirdingtours.com)

[www.chinabirdingtours.com](http://www.chinabirdingtours.com)



Upland Pipit, but only saw some singing Oriental Skylarks. We gave up of searching because it started to rain, we got back to bus and drove back to the town for lunch.

After, we drove to the wetland named Lashi Hai, where we had good luck for an Oriental Pratincole and a Blyth's Pipit, some other birds included Black-winged Kite, Grey-backed Shrike, Great Crested Grebe, Brown Shrike. Mallards.



**Oriental Pratincole**

### **Day 8 Lijiang to Chengdu**

Today was our last day in Yunnan, we arrived to our destination named Shigu town (Stone Drum Town) after an hour drive. Here we expected a better view of Brown-winged Parrotbill, we searched along a small river, our first bird was turned out to be a good one, the Long-billed Plover, This had caused quite an excitement for everyone, most people from the group had not seen it before. another good bird was Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker, a small group of them perching on the branches of a tall tree, we had very good view through the scope. the last time I saw them was in Gaoligong mountain nearby Tengchun city in western Yunnan. Some other birds we saw here included Grey Wagtail, Common Sandpiper, Russet Sparrow, Japanese White-eye, Red-billed Starling, Black Bulbul (White-headed form), a juvenile Citrine Wagtail, Common Rosefinch,



**Common Rosefinch**

Dark-sided Flycatcher. Before left, we had finally found 2 pairs of Brown-winged Parrotbills busy feeding at the edge of a field, everyone had a good look at them. After, we drove back to Lijiang airport and departed for Chengdu city. We met with a few more birders who did not do the Yunnan Extension tour and had a welcome dinner together.

### **Day 9 Chengdu to Longcanggou**

We had our breakfast at the hotel, then headed to the Botanical garden and spent most of the morning here, White-browed Laughingthrush, Grey-capped Greenfinch, Collared Finchbill, Red-billed Liothrix, Vinous-throated Parrotbill, Ashy-throated Parrotbill, Rufous-faced Warbler, Common Kingfisher. We had our lunch nearby the Botanical Garden, then drove 3 hours to reach to our destination Longcanggou. Upon arrival, after a quick check-in, we drove to bird nearby the hotel at the lower elevation of the mountain: A Grey-faced Buzzard perched on the top of a

Contact: Steven An

[Info@chinabirdingtours.com](mailto:Info@chinabirdingtours.com)

[www.chinabirdingtours.com](http://www.chinabirdingtours.com)



tree, White-throated Needletails flying very high in the sky, nearby a bridge, we saw Brown Dipper, Sichuan Bush Warbler (New species), Brown Bush Warbler, Claudia's Leaf Warbler, Red-billed Liothrix, Verditer Flycatcher, Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler, Ashy-throated Parrotbill. Today was just a small taste of the trip here, we would see lots of birds in the next 3 days.

### **Day10 Longcanggou**

Today, we left early to try the pheasants on the way up to the top but did not see any, then we went up straight to the top, we planned today for the high elevations birds, especially the cute Parrotbills. We searched at a trail where there were bamboo thickets and low tree bushes, it was not long before we found our first Three-toed Parrotbill, it moved very slowly across the bamboo thickets, so everyone had an excellent view of this bird. Later on we saw more of this species, at almost the same area, we have found a single Great Parrotbill. Some other birds we saw here included Spotted Laughingthrush, Aberrant Bush Warbler, Red-winged Laughingthrush, Elliot's Laughingthrush, Brown Bush Warbler, Green-backed Tit, Sichuan Leaf Warbler, Large-billed Leaf Warbler, Blue-fronted Redstart, White-collared



**Grey-hooded Parrotbill**

Yuhina, Red-billed Liothrix, White-bellied Redstart, Eurasian Jay, Himalayan Colucock, Golden-breasted Fulvetta, Grey-headed Woodpecker, Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler. Later on, we walked down the road and found a small group of the very cute Golden Parrotbills, they were busy feeding themselves and moved across the road to the other side without being afraid of our existence, so I had my chance to get some photo shots. In the afternoon, we tried another road on the very top of the mountain and saw a lonely singing Collared Owlet, few singing Bianchi's Warbler, and heard White-browed Shortwing. Before we moved down, finally, we had our fourth Parrotbill species here, Grey-hooded Parrotbill, they are bamboo specialist, very secretive and moving fast, but I was faster, got good photos, what a great day.

### **Day 11 Longcanggou**

Today, we tried both of the higher mountains and the bottom of the mountains. Higher up, we saw Fire-capped tit, a male Vinaceous Rosefinch, Three-toed Parrotbills again, 2 of them this time; Large-hawk Cuckoo, Lesser Cuckoo, Himalayan Swiftlet, the very secretive Emei shan Liocichla, (not very good view) Aberrant Bush Warbler, Rufous-gorged Flycatcher, Large-billed Leaf Warbler, Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler, Yellow-bellied Tit, Grey-chinned Minivet, Golden-breasted Fulvetta, a small group of Golden Parrotbills and Red-tailed Minlas, a female vivid Niltava, and a

Contact: Steven An

[Info@chinabirdingtours.com](mailto:Info@chinabirdingtours.com)

[www.chinabirdingtours.com](http://www.chinabirdingtours.com)



very calm White-backed Woodpecker. At lunch time, we saw a singing Sichuan Bush Warbler. After, we tried another side of the mountain, saw Plumbeous Water Redstart, Pygmy Wren Babbler, Rufous-capped Babbler, Red-winged Laughingthrush, Red-billed Leiothrix, Marten's Warbler, Black Bulbul, Grey-faced Buzzerd, Ctrine Wagtail, Ashy-throated Parrotbill, Red-billed Blue Magpie.



**Golden Parrotbill**

On the way back to hotel, we stopped near a small piece of bamboo forest, where we had spotted a Grey-headed Parrotbill, only one moving around. In winter, they are always in a group. This was our fifth Parrotbill here. Nearby the hotel, we saw a Yellow-throated Bunting.

We did not stop birding even at night, a nice walk out after dinner had rewarded us Himalayan Owl, a stunning big Owl, very close view.

### **Day 12 Longcanggou**

Today we focused on the lower areas, some new birds included Sapphire Flycatcher, Ferruginous Flycatcher, Ashy-throated Leaf Warbler, Grey-hood Fulvetta, A fly-over-head female Lady Amherst's Pheasant, somebody shouted Chinese Bamboo Partridge the first reaction, that's what we were looking for here, but the bird was a little bit bigger in body size and longer tail, it turned out to be a female Lady Amherst's Pheasant. Some other bird we saw here, Blue-whistling thrush, Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo, Chinese Blue Flycatcher, White-capped Redstart and more of the Ashy-throated Parrotbills.

### **Day 13 Longcang Gou to Wolong**

Today was our last day here in Longcanggou, we had a very leisure morning before we took our journey to Wolong. Some people chose to stay at the hotel to have a good rest, some people headed out again to the mountains and tried to find the still missing Golden-fronted Fulvetta. After breakfast in the field, we split the group to 2, Glen took care of the group for birding, I took care of the group back to the hotel for rest. On the way back to hotel, our group saw 2 young male Lady Amherst's Pheasants feeding on the road, and Glen's group saw a male Teminck's Tragopan walked across the road. The Golden-fronted Fulvetta was turned out to be a failure. We left hotel around 11:00, and drove 1 hour to the nearby Ya'an city for lunch, then we drove for the rest of the day (6 hours drive) and reached in Wolong around 7:00 pm.

### **Day 14-15 Balangshan in Wolong**

Contact: Steven An

[Info@chinabirdingtours.com](mailto:Info@chinabirdingtours.com)

[www.chinabirdingtours.com](http://www.chinabirdingtours.com)



Balangshan is one the most important destination for Birding in Sichuan, one of the highlight of the whole trip. the top of the mountain is 4484 meters, is capped with snow for most of the year. the snow-capped rocky mountain top was where we could find Tibetan Snowcock and Snow Partridges, as well as many Mountain Finches, Rosefinches and Grandalas. the lower elevation holds Pheasants, Laughingthrushes, and Robins, Rubythroats etc. In 2 days, we saw 2 Chinese Monals, 2 Tibetan



**Grandala**

Snowcocks, 2 Blood Pheasants, 3 Teminck's Tragopans (2 males and 1 female), 6 Koklass Pheasants, many Grandalas, Giant and Elliot's Laughinthrushes, Plain, Brand's Mountain Finches, Rosy Pipits, Several Streaked, White-browed, Red-fronted, Pink-rumped, Common Rosefinches, Firethroats, other birds includes Sichuan Thrush, Chinese Thrush, Chestnut Thrush, Yellow-bellied Bush Warbler, Aberrant Bush Warbler, Large-billed, Claudia's, Alpine, Sichuan Leaf Warbler, Rufous-vented Tit, White-throated, Blue-fronted Redstart, Rufous-breasted, Alpine Accentors.

### **Day 16 Balangshan-Maerkang**

We had a full morning birding at Balangshan, the weather was still not good but less foggy than the previous days, finally we got the chance to scan the rocky and barren slopes, we found 4 Snow Partridges, a pair of White-eared Pheasants and Verreaux's Monal-Partridge, we had also spotted 2 big mammals, a blue sheep and a Tufted Deer.

After, we headed to Maerkang, which is almost 6 hours drive. On the way, we stopped for Hill Pigeon and Wall creeper and saw both of them.

### **Day 17 Mengbishan in Maerkang**



**Blood Pheasant**

We started from hotel at 5:30, it's about an hour drive to Mengbi Mountain, we had another rainy day, but it was good weather for Pheasants, on the way up, we saw 3 pairs of Blood Pheasant in different locations, and another small group close to the top of the mountain. we got really close view to watch them leisurely walked across the road. While we stopped for Blood

Contact: Steven An

[Info@chinabirdingtours.com](mailto:Info@chinabirdingtours.com)

[www.chinabirdingtours.com](http://www.chinabirdingtours.com)



Pheasant, Tour Leader Glan spotted a beautiful male White-winged Grosbeak perching on a pine tree, we all rushed out of the bus and had a good look at him. As we drove higher, it was snowing, we stopped at a good place to have a picnic breakfast as usual. While breakfast, we saw Rufous-breasted Accentor, White-throated, Blue-fronted Redstart, Himalayan Bluetail, Buff-barred Warbler, White-browed Rosefinch. After, we walked along the road down, tried to find our target birds. Soon we had our first target bird Sichuan Jay, 4 of them moving together. As we continued, we saw Elliot's Laughingthrush, Giant Laughingthrush, Large-billed Crow, Rufous-vented Tit, Pink-rumped Rosefinch, a shy Verreaux's Monal-Partridge. before lunch, we stopped at a very good spot where we had picked up most of our targets, Three-banded Rosefinch(Both male and female), Crested Tit Warbler, Black Woodpecker, Chinese Fulvetta, Maroon-backed Accentor, Goldcrest. after lunch, we drove up again, the weather was not helping, we did not see much but we had a pair of Verreaux's Monal-Partridge walked across the road, that was the highlight of the day, everybody enjoyed that. As the weather got worse, we decided to give up and drove down to the lower elevation to have some culture tour, we stopped to visit a Tibetan Temple, and got some photos of the Prayer wheels, at the nearby river, we picked up a White-throated Dipper.

#### **Day 18 Maerkang to Ruoergai**

This day was one of the highlight of the tour, many new birds in one day, we left early and drove towards Ruoergai, we made many stops on the way. We started our birding from a search of a river, tried for the Ibisbill, but failed to find any, searching along the river, we saw Cattle Egret, Whiskered Tern, Chinese Pond Heron, Black-capped Kingfisher. At the toilet stop, we had spotted 2 pairs of White Eared Pheasants walking on the slope far away, on the grassy wood nearby, we saw a Daurian Jackdaw, several Pere David's Laughingthrushes,(Plain),Blue-fronted Redstart, Azure-winged Magpie, Ctrinre Wagtail.

At the transitional zone from the wooded Forest mountains to the High Tibetan Mountains and Grassland, we had found the beautiful White-browed Tit Warbler and the scarce White-browed Tit. Several Kessler's Thrushes, Black Redstarts, Twites and Tibetan Snowfinches. As we drove along, we saw more new birds, the rare Black-necked Crane was spotted by me, the first one was feeding alone, as we continue driving, we have met quite a few small groups, in total, we might have seen more than 50 of them. The last new bird we saw was the attractive Pzrevalski's Pinktail, we



**Pzrevalski's Finch(Pinktail)**

Contact: Steven An

[Info@chinabirdingtours.com](mailto:Info@chinabirdingtours.com)

[www.chinabirdingtours.com](http://www.chinabirdingtours.com)



have found a small party on a slope in a valley, they might be a family. we saw an Adult male, a young male and 2 females. What a beautiful species, everyone loved them. On the way to the hotel, we had met with some mammals too, lots of Himalayan Marmots, a Red Fox spotted by Richard walking leisurely on the hill slope, a Grey Wolf was chased by a Tibetan Mastiff , a fast running Hog Badger and a Tibetan Roe Deer.

### **Day 19 Baxi Valley and Flower Lake**

After a good sleep at the best hotel in Ruoergai, we were ready for another new day. In the morning, we went to Baxi Valley and targeted for Blue-eared Pheasant, we had found it the first stop we made, a pair feeding on a slope, a little bit far but good view in the scope. Soon we found a pair of Snowy-cheeked Laughingthrushes, which was also new for us. A little bit further down the road , we had Sichuan Jay, White-backed and Black Woodpeckers. After breakfast, we tried a few gully and had Pzrevalski's Nuthatch, Slaty-backed Flycatcher, Blood Pheasants, Common Pheasants, Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Hodgson's Redstart, Crested Honey Buzzard, Northern Raven and Carrion Crow, Sichuan Tit, Plain Laughingthrush, Beautiful and Chinese White-browed



**Ruoergai Scenery**

several the previously seen Black-necked Cranes, a few Tibetan Larks and White-rumped Snowfinches , a group of Brown-headed Gulls, a Black-necked Grebe and some Red-throated Pipits. Other birds including; Citrine Wagtail, Chinese Pond Heron, Common Coot , Horned Lark, Pale Sand Martin, Greylag Goose, Great Cormorants, Great-crested Grebe, Whiskered Tern, Ferruginous Duck, Common Pochard, Gadwall, Eurasian Wigeon, Grey Heron, Eurasian Bittern. On the way back to the hotel, we had found our previously missed Saker Falcon, an adult feeding alone on a pica. this was a bonus for today, we had spent almost 1 hour drove along the road and looked for it on the day before, nothing but frustration.

### **Day 20 Ruoergai to Jiuzhaigou**

Before we departed for Jiuzhaigou, we went to Baxi Valley again, this time, we went to a different

Contact: Steven An

[Info@chinabirdingtours.com](mailto:Info@chinabirdingtours.com)

[www.chinabirdingtours.com](http://www.chinabirdingtours.com)



gully, the highlight was a superb Chinese Serow, he tried to hide himself in the woods and tall grass while feeding, but his white hair on the back had betrayed him, we spotted him from very far. we spent some time enjoy the Serow feeding, he moved his head down and fed for a while, then headed up ,looked around, then headed down again, fed for a while ,headed up again, looked around, seemed feel insecure, but it is a good way of making himself to be safe...For birds, we did not see many new species but a stunning male White-bellied Redstart and a Siberian Rubythroat, we got better views of Slaty-backed Flycatcher, White-throated Redstart and a pair of Blue Eared Pheasants.

### **Day 21 Jiuzhaigou National Forest Park**

Jiuzhaigou is a top tourist destination in China, known for its snow-capped mountain, blue water pools and beautiful trees and valleys, according to the local official data, in peak season from September to November, the daily highest tourists number could be 45,000. For me, it seems always crowded with people. We managed to get the tickets 1 day before, that saved us from long time waiting in the queue, we had the first shuttle bus at 7:30 to take us a to the Primitive Forest area and spent most of our morning there, lots of Elliot's Laughingthrushes, the nearest we could get was here, not afraid of people, a bunch of Chinese Leaf Warbler, Large-billed Leaf Warbler, Buff-barred Leaf Warbler, Slaty-backed Flycatcher; the new and exciting birds were a small group of Tibetan Serins jumping around the tall trees. Later on, we went back to the lunch site in 2 different ways, our group saw a pair of the interesting Pere David's Tits on the way back, the other team saw a Spotted Bush Warbler showed well. In the afternoon, we headed down to the Reed lake, after walk



**Jiuzhaigou Scenery**

for 15 minutes, we had found an adorable Speckled Parrotbill, that's one of our important target here. Some other birds including a pair of Slaty Buntings, several Bianchi's Warblers, and a White-winged Grosbeak. We ended up the day early today since it was already a very long trip and we all needed some good rest.

For dinner, we had a feast, besides the many different dishes from hotel, I ordered 8 big pieces of Pizzas from another restaurant, good foods made our stomach happy too.

### **Day 22 Jiuzhaigou to Tangjiahe**

After a good rest the, we got up very early this morning, we had 2 big targets today, The Pere David's Owl( Sichuan Wood Owl) and Chinese Grouse. unfortunately, we were stopped by a landslide happened yesterday night, we worried about the time, but could not do anything. But it

Contact: Steven An

[Info@chinabirdingtours.com](mailto:Info@chinabirdingtours.com)

[www.chinabirdingtours.com](http://www.chinabirdingtours.com)



was not too bad, an excavator cleaned the slides in about 1 hour, so finally we could go.



#### **Pere David's Owl**

Nuthatch. before we found one, Kevin texted me and said “we are watching a pair a Chinese Grouse right now, the Owl Site”, so we turned back right away and rushed to the owl site, when we arrived to the site, they were still there, 2 of them busy feeding, What a lucky day! having a good friend is very important, Sharing information is more important!!!Thank you. Kevin. Later on, a Long-tailed Thrush was also picked by us there. After a big breakfast,we said goodbye to Kevin and his group then drove towards our next destination Tangjiahe. on the way, we picked up a Godlewski's Bunting at a Gas Station and a small group of Red-billed Starlings at a toilet stop. After we arrived at Tangjiahe, before darkness, we scanned the rocky and grassy slopes of the mountain inside the nature reserve, and lucky to have found a group of Golden Takins feeding on grass, a Reeve's Muntjac was also spotted not far away.

Gonggangling seemed never let me down, we did not spend much time before we saw the big guy, Pere David's Owl, it flew over us and landed on a branch just in front of us, calling and calling, even our cameras moving around, he did not fly away. After about half an hour, my friend Kevin's group also arrived here, so we left the place and gave them some time to enjoy the bird and his song. After we left the owl, we went down hill and tried to look for the still missing Chinese

Tangjiahe Nature Reserve is not only famous as an ideal place for birding ,but also a place for mammals, Wild Pandas, Golden Snub-nosed Monkey, Blue sheep, Tibetan Macaque, Chinese Goral etc, all can be found here. Actually we did see a group of Tibetan Macaques and Chinese Goral in the following 2 days.

#### **Day 23-25 Tangjiahe Nature Reserve**

Tangjiahe is our last leg, we stayed here for 2 and half days, while our stay here, we tried both drive on the road for the pheasants and also walked up to the mountain by the steep steps, this hard working had yielded us more than 10 male Golden Pheasants in different locations,1 male Teminck's Tragopan(only by me), 1 Towny Fish Owl, some other birds including White-crowned Forktail, Crested Kingfisher, Barred Laughingthrush, Marten's Leaf



**Golden Takin**

Contact: Steven An

[Info@chinabirdingtours.com](mailto:Info@chinabirdingtours.com)

[www.chinabirdingtours.com](http://www.chinabirdingtours.com)



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Warbler, Sulphur-breasted Warbler, Claudia's Leaf Warbler, Alstrom's Warbler, Ferruginous Flycatcher, Collared Finchbill, Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler, Green-backed, Yellow-bellied Tit, Black-throated Bushtit, Eurasian Nuthatch, Indian Blue Robin, Black-chinned Yuhina, Mountain Bulbul, Brown-breasted Bulbul, Vinous-throated Parrotbill, Collared Crew, Yellow-throated



**Teminck's Tagopan**

Bunting, Collared Finchbill, David's Fulvetta, Japanese White-eye. On day 25, we left Tangjiahe early and drove back to Chengdu, we arrived before dinner time.

How fast the time flies, it came to the end of the tour, we had a very successful tour and it definitely worth of a big celebration, we treated our guests with the typical and most popular Sichuan Hotpot as the 'Farewell Dinner', and it turned out everyone loved it. I love smiles!!!

Your smiles are our biggest happiness. We work for your smiles!

Special Thanks to Tour Leader Glen and Co-leader Rich!



Golden Pheasant

**Day 26 Departure from Chengdu.**

Tour ends.

Contact: Steven An

Contact: Steven An

[Info@chinabirdingtours.com](mailto:Info@chinabirdingtours.com)

[www.chinabirdingtours.com](http://www.chinabirdingtours.com)



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[Info@chinabirdingtours.com](mailto:Info@chinabirdingtours.com)

[www.chinabirdingtours.com](http://www.chinabirdingtours.com)

Contact: Steven An

[Info@chinabirdingtours.com](mailto:Info@chinabirdingtours.com)

[www.chinabirdingtours.com](http://www.chinabirdingtours.com)