

China's Sichuan Basin & Tibetan Plateau Species List | June 11 – 26, 2026 with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by tour host Peg Abbott with expert local guide, Bella Zhang. Our clients included Andrew, Cathy, John, Daryl, John, Valerie, Rob, Mark, Ken, and Kim.

This inaugural journey surpassed our collective expectations beyond measure. The scenic beauty and quality and health of forest habitats, the striking expanses of alpine habitats and the cultural richness of the Tibetan region left lasting impressions as we tallied 220 species of birds and 17 species of mammals. Highlights were many! We saw 12 species of pheasants, including the magnificent Silver and Lady Amhurst's, as well as the electric Chinese Monal. We watched a big Bearded Vulture in its nest only to have one of the adults sweep in with prey, then feed and preen it. On windswept Balang Mountain we saw flocks of Snow Pigeon and above tree line a pair of the beyond-blue, glorious Grandala. Keen-eyed Bella spotted an Ibisbill for us off a bridge and we had good numbers of Himalayan Griffon circling above on 8 days. We will long remember finding a pair of Tawny Fish Owl in the rain by using Bella's thermal sensing camera, and spotlighting the Himalayan Owl that called above our cabins. We saw 6 species of woodpeckers, 7 species of rosefinches, and were dazzled by 3 species of minivets and were surprised to get stunning view of Derbyan Parakeets feeding on cones atop pines. We sorted out 14 species of leaf-warblers, and Peg found a family of White-browed Tit Warblers that stayed long enough for scope views by all. Watching a Bearded Vulture bring in prey to its chick on a nest was a thrill. We also had good luck with mammals including five Red Panda sightings, wow! Bella Zhang of Alpine Birding was a competent and delightful lead guide!

BIRDS 223 species were recorded of which 14 were endemic. Details are included below.

The eBird link below details the birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[China's Sichuan Basin & Tibetan Plateau | June 11-26, 2026 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Following is a list of the birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians we were fortunate to observe during the trip.

Family Species or Common Name: Scientific Name — ()

BIRDS: (224 species – 2 are not on group eBird lists – Red-whiskered Bulbul and Oriental Honey Buzzard)

DUCKS, GEESE, AND WATERFOWL: Anatidae — (4)

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* — (3) Seen along quieter sections of the many large rivers we drove alongside. Stunning colorful ducks most often seen in pairs. High count was eight individuals.

Cotton Pygmy Goose *Nettapus coromandelianus* — (1) Four individuals seen at the start of the tour while at Xinglong Lake.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* — (1) Seen only at Xinglong Lake, a very productive wetland area at the start of our trip.
Common Merganser *Mergus merganser* — (1) An adult was seen in a rushing stream as we scanned for Ibisbill near Kangding, and adult female with chicks.

PHEASANTS, GROUSE, AND ALLIES: Phasianidae — (12)

(E) Sichuan Partridge *Arborophila rufipectus* — (2) Seen well in two different pheasant hides at Tanshi, very early in the morning. We then heard them on a subsequent day.

Snow Partridge *Lerwa* — (1) Great views on our final day atop Balang Shan at the summit, we all got great views and heard them calling, one pair above the road and another below us.

Blood Pheasant *Ithaginis cruentus* — (2) We first saw this species at the Zhaga Monastery on a foggy morning outing. It was quite bold and calling, put on a good show. We saw another atop Balan Shan near the summit as we drove up that long winding pass.

Temminck's Tragopan *temminckii* — (2) Stunningly colorful, this was one of the gems of our day at the pheasant hides on June 13. It caught us by surprise, rising into view from below, walking through tall grass, then coming out fully into the open. It fed, preened (extending its tail feathers like a fan) and disappeared. We found another much to our surprise, in the night vision camera – one sleeping! Cheers to Rob who aimed his scope through the rain so we could verify it.

(E) Chestnut-throated Monal-Partridge *Tetraophasis obscurus* — (2) Our first encounter on Jiajin Pass, from a viewpoint, was a “heard only”, it did not want to come out into view. The next day we saw a male in all its colorful glory. Local guide/drivers had joined us and we were all scanning, Peg handed her binoculars to one that joined in and within minutes got very animated, despite the language barrier he got us on one near a rock scree slope – beautiful.

(E) Buff-throated Monal-Partridge *Tetraophasis szechenyii* — (1) We got out in the dark to be up the mountain at first light, arriving to fog, this vocal species was our reward, and with this diligence we got good views.

(E) Chinese Monal *Lophophorus lhuysii* — (1) This handsome species likes high elevation and we were able to find it on the Balang Shan summit.

Lady Amherst's Pheasant *Chrysolophus amherstiae* — (2) One of those birds that makes you say, “this one was worth the whole trip”. Remarkable patterns in the plumage, so colorful and elegant. We had a male stride in to the hide at Tanshi while a Silver Pheasant was still there, incredible. We saw them also in the forest, quite magical to see such beauty on the run.

(E) White Eared-Pheasant *Crossoptilon crossoptilon* — (1) This large pheasant is white, and Bella explained it's a group of pheasants known as “eared pheasants” which made complete sense as we watched first two gleaming white beauties emerge, and then saw a large group in the center grounds of the meadow and pool central to Zhaga Monastery.

Silver Pheasant *Lophura nycthemera* — (1) We just had one long glorious look at this elegant species, the first of the big pheasants we encountered, at the hides at Tanshi. What an introduction to this group so important to the fauna of China.

(E) Chinese Bamboo-Partridge *Bambusicola thoracicus* — (1) We heard this species and then had great views, its intricate plumage much appreciated.

Tibetan Snowcock *Tetraogallus tibetanus* — (1) We saw seven in total atop the high point of the pass over Balang Shan mountain. They were first spied in a vegetated gully below the summit, traversing among bright flowers – memorable!

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae — (6)

Hill Pigeon *Columba rupestris* — (5) Fairly common and distinctive. Comfortable around human settlements and in the wild.

Snow Pigeon *Columba leuconota* — (3) Seen in flocks, very dynamic flyers showy and fun to view in wild mountain areas at higher elevations.

Speckled Wood-Pigeon *Columba hodgsonii* — (2) A very intricate-plumaged species, great to get scope views.

Oriental Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia orientalis* (7) Quite distinctive and seen frequently in a variety of terrain and habitat.

Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis* — (4) Seen at the first part of the trip before going into the mountains, fairly common.

Wedge-tailed Green-Pigeon *Treron sphenurus* — (1) A super quick glimpse at a fly over on the morning we birded near the lodge before ascending the cable car to walk in mossy forests with Red Pandas at Wawu NP.

CUCKOOS: Cuculidae — (5)

Asian Koel *Eudynamis scolopaceus* — (7) Quite vocal, starting at dawn, heard from our hotel at times, and on our morning outings. While widespread, our best views and only good views were in the Danba village area.

Square-tailed Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris*— (1-HO) This species was heard calling while in the Baxian Mountain area.

Large Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx sparveroides* — (4-HO) Quite common but elusive, we heard it repeatedly while in the mountain areas.

Lesser Cuckoo *Cuculus poliocephalus* — (6) Often overlapping calls with Large Hawk-Cuckoo, we finally got a quick look while walking the loop trail in Giant Panda NP. Surprisingly common.

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* — (6) We saw this large cuckoo with regularity and heard its namesake call. It would perch up atop trees and one time came pretty close to land on a utility wire on our roadside.

SWIFTS: Apodidae — (3)

White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus* — (1) A long individual zoomed in overhead as we walked the boardwalk trail on Wawu Mountain.

Salim Ali's Swift *Apus salimalii* — (4) We first encountered them using a tower like structure on a roadside pitstop chosen for its many small trees. It was fascinating to watch their agile bold flight, and we encountered them several other times while in the mountains. The high count was 60+.

House Swift *Apus nipalensis* — (1) A group was encountered crossing Sichuan Pass outside of Kangding.

RAILS, GALLINULES, AND COOTS: Rallidae — (1)

Eurasian Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* — (2) Seen at lovely Huanhuaxi Park in Chengdu and then again at Xinglong Lake the following day. High count was six.

IBISBILLS: Ibisidrhynchidae — (1)

Ibisbill *Ibisidrhyncha struthersii* — (1) A notable find by persistent Bella, who nearly laid down on a bridge to get the long view of the river – success! Through a few contortions and a low slung scope most everyone got a view of this iconic species.

GREBES: Podicipedidae — (1)

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* — (2) Seen the first two days of the trip at lakes and parks visited. Great behavior and photo opportunities.

HERONS, EGRETS, AND BITTERNS: Ardeidae — (8)

Cinnamon Bittern *Botaurus cinnamomeus* — (1) A lone individual was seen at Xinglong Lake.

Yellow Bittern *Botaurus sinensis*— (1) Great to have a two bittern day at Xinglong Lake, a super worthwhile stop.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* — (2) At least 30 individuals were seen at a rookery site at Huanhuaxi Park.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* — (4) Numerous at the start of the trip, we continued to find them along local rivers.

Chinese Pond-Heron *Ardeola bacchus* — (2) A couple of people saw this at our resort on June 17 and 18, early in the morning, Andrew and Lorna got photos of this beauty in full breeding plumage on subsequent mornings.

Eastern Cattle-Egret *Ardea coromanda* — (4) Seen on several travel days (often between eBird checklists...)

Great Egret *Ardea alba* — (2) Less common than Little Egret but seen on two days.

Gray Heron *Ardea cinerea* — (2) Also noted as 30+ at the rookery site at Huanhuaxi Park in Chengdu, very close to our hotel.

HAWKS, EAGLES, AND KITES: Accipitridae — (7)

Bearded Vulture *Gypaetus barbatus* — (2) First seen in flight at a distance with other vultures. Then an incredible sighting when Bella stopped at a known cliff site checking on a possible nest and YES – an enormous chick barely still fitting in the nest. To our thrill, as we scoped it an adult flew in, banking to show off the characteristic tail shape and then proceeding to feed and then groom the oversized youngster. So hopeful for a rare to see species, a trip highlight.

Oriental Honey-buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus* — (1) Seen by Ken at a break mid-day from our hotel on June 16, described well and appropriate for this area. This species is not in our eBird tally but a trip bird for Ken.

Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus* — (1) Just a quick look, a distant sighting with other Himalayan Griffons soaring above a ridgeline.

Himalayan Griffon *Gyps himalayensis* — (8) Incredibly, a common sighting for our tour, which spend a lot of time in scenic mountainous terrain. If one looked skyward for long, there was often one to be found. 24 was the high count on Jiajin Mountain, amazing to see so many, likely due to a livestock carcass in the vicinity.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* — (2) Two were seen on our village walk but quite distant, this sighting was confirmed when we saw them again the following day, visible to all.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* — (1) A techno sighting, seen first in the thermal imaging camera as we walked through dense forest, those up front with Bella got a glimpse when they tracked down this clue. New toys!

Eurasian Goshawk *Astur gentilis* — (1) Out for several hours searching for montane species and mixed flocks, this beauty soared into view and we got photos and good long looks, wow!

OWLS: Strigidae — (4)

Collared Scops Owl *Otus lettia* — (2-HO) Heard from our hotel two nights at the start of the trip, a mix of agricultural and town side vegetation along a river.

Tawny Fish Owl *Ketupa flavipes* — (1) A trip highlight for many. On a misty, then rainy night we followed a river from our hotel on a quiet road. Bella brought out the thermal camera and we found a few mammals (Leopard Cat!!) and then she turned it on the riverbank in a stretch this large owl was known to frequent. We found one, then it flew to its mate, and we watched the perched in different trees in our spotlight (thanks John for the awesome torch).

Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei* — (1) Heard as we walked and looked for birds in the Tanshi area.

Himalayan Owl *Strix nivicolium* — (2) Seen well from our cabins around a small water feature at Red Army Camp. We had met at dawn to get up to a mountain pass by early light, but took time to find this beauty as it was calling loudly and close by. Wonderful spotlight looks perched and in flight. It called again all through a second night.

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae — (2)

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* — (2) This bright jewel was seen on the river corridor outside our hotel which we walked before heading out for the day. Good views across the river. Also seen at the park near our hotel in Chengdu.

Crested Kingfisher *Megaceryle lugubris* — (1) For those NOT frequenting the coffee shop, fairly new to China and we loved patronizing them, a lone individual appeared at close range on the river.

ASIAN BARBETS: Megalaimidae — (1)

Great Barbet *Psilopogon virens* — (4) Fairly common in more lowland and mid-level elevations, we heard this species often and at times located it perched on high, visible.

WOODPECKERS: Picidae — (6)

Speckled Piculet *Picumnus innominatus* — (1) Seen on our afternoon optional walk while staying in the charming Danba Village area.

Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker *Picooides tridactylus* — (1) We worked for this one, we think woodpeckers were nesting and quiet, and we passed through so much excellent habitat before finally hearing then calling this one in for good views.

Rufous-bellied Woodpecker *Dendrocopos hyperythrus* — (1) A lovely woodpecker, seen low in trees along a river where we walked a loop known for Giant Panda sightings, forest of an important watershed. This was a female, and we got good looks.

Darjeeling Woodpecker *Dendrocopos darjellensis* — (1) Seen in the distance from a boardwalk trail but we got scopes on it, a great find.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* — (4) By far the most common woodpecker seen, vocal and often easy to follow and track.

Gray-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus* — (1) A nice reward for our morning outing ahead of breakfast while staying in the Danba villages.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae — (2)

Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* — (4) Seen while checking ridgelines for raptors, at times hovering, typically distant but distinct.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* — (1) A rapid fly-in overhead while birding, with its unmistakable hood. Just this one individual for the trip, towards the end of our journey.

PARROTS AND PARAKEETS: Psittaciformes

Derbyan Parakeet *Psittacula derbiana* — (1) An unexpected sighting, we had grand views of this beautifully marked species, male and female of at least two pair, devouring pine cones, giving us ample scope time to observe them. We had them both morning and afternoon in a mountain area accessed by a long winding road – a treat!

CUCKOOSHRIKES: Campephagidae — (3)

Short-billed Minivet *Pericrocotus brevirostris* — (1) Rob caught on that the pattern did not fit Long-tailed when we had repeated views of this beautiful species at close range, off the tram at Wawu Mountain.

Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus* — (5) Fairly common and colorful, we had good viewing and photo opportunities with this lovely species.

Black-winged Cuckooshrike *Lalage melaschistos* — (1) One individual seen in our first few days, at Xinglong Lake.

DRONGOS: Dicruridae — (2)

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus* — (3) Large and vocal, we saw this species well in flight and perched. At Xinglong Lake and Sichuan Pass.

Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus* — (2) One individual seen in the scope at a distance, as we birded from a bridge on June 13. Seen again the following day.

SHRIKES: Laniidae — (2)

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach* — (1) Seen only at the tour start at Xinglong Lake.

Gray-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus* — (4) The most common and often confiding shrike we saw on this journey.

CROWS, JAYS, AND MAGPIES: Corvidae — (9)

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius* — (2) Seen on two days, in forest areas with a mix of conifer and deciduous trees, the second in the Danba village area.

Red-billed Blue-Magpie *Urocissa erythroryncha* — (8) Quite common and seen well, a stunning Corvid!

Oriental Magpie *Pica serica* — (1) Seen in farm fields near Wawu NP, lower elevation.

Black-rumped Magpie *Pica bottanensis* — (4) Very common, seen in rural areas of Kangding and the Danby Villages.

Southern Nutcracker *Nucifraga hemispila* — (3) We loved hearing and then seeing this fascinating species in mountain realms with conifers just loaded with cones to harvest. A sound of the mountains.

Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* — (6) Very common in mountain environments.

Daurian Jackdaw *Coloeus dauuricus* — (2) Seen twice, in riverine areas of rural environments around livestock.

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos* — (8) Common and widespread.

Common Raven *Corvus corax* — (4) Best views were in Danby villages where they perched on centuries old towers calling. Memorable!

FAIRY FLYCATCHERS: Stenostiridae — (1)

Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis* — (2) Seen well in forest habitats at Tanshi and Wawu.

TITS, CHICKADEES, AND TITMICE: Paridae — (7)

Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus* — (1) A lovely species seen morning and afternoon in the Great Panda NP forested area.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater* — (3) The crested form is found here, seen best at Wawu and Labahe.

Rufous-vented Tit *Periparus rubidiventris* — (5) Seen well, very cooperative species often in family groups or with mixed flocks.

Gray-crested Tit *Lophophanes dichrous* — (5) Noted on five days, often in mixed flocks.

(E) Sichuan Tit *Poecile weigoldicus* — (2) We heard this species as we were loading the bus atop the mountain where we had a lot of truck activity due to a cement plant. Luckily Peg spied one at a rest stop the next day, kicking off a good birding session unexpected at this site.

Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus* — (8) By far the most common species of its group, seen regularly.

Asian Tit *Parus cinereus* — (4) Widespread, we had good views of this species in a variety of habitats.

PRINIAS: Cisticolidae (1)

Plain Prinia *inornata*— (1) Seen early in the trip, only at Xinglong Lake.

GRASSBIRDS and ALLIES: Locustellidae — (2)

Brown Bush Warbler *Locustella luteoventris* — (1) Good views in Great Panda NP, singing.

Spotted Bush Warbler *Locustella thoracica* — (2) Seen both days we were in Wawu NP, this was a fun find in that once it started singing it posed indefinitely, singing away.

CUPWINGS: Pnoepygidae — (1)

Pygmy Cupwing *Pnoepyga pusilla* — (3) Mostly heard, but in the passageway of our hotel, in a garden area rimmed by a rock cliff, two local photographers were using their thermal imager to track one. A few of us got in on that and had fun seeing it scamper across the open rock face then go back into hiding to call away.

SWALLOWS: Hirundinidae — (4)

Eurasian Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* — (4) Common around cliffs and in the Danba village area. High count of 60+.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* — (4) Common in the first part of the trip in more open, agricultural and rural areas.

Asian House-Martin *Delichon dasypus* — (9) Very common and widespread. High count of twenty.

Eastern Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* — (4) A striking swallow, we enjoyed them in lower elevation rural and foothills areas.

BULBULS: Pycnonotidae — (5)

Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus* — (3) Seen regularly at the start of the trip in lower elevation forests.

Collared Finchbill *Spizixos semitorques* — (4) A handsome bird that liked to perch up, easy to find.

Brown-breasted Bulbul *Pycnonotus xanthorrhous* — (8) Common and widespread, vocal.

Light-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus sinensis* — (5) Common at lower elevations, in parks and around our hotels.

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus* — (1) Seen in the park by our hotel in Chengdu.

LEAF WARBLERS: Phylloscopidae — (14)

Ashy-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus maculipennis* — (2) Active and busy in mixed flocks, seen on two days.

Buff-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus pulcher* — (7) One of the most often encountered leaf warblers with a distinctive habit of wing flicking. It had a distinctive wing bar pattern and song, a leaf warbler we felt comfortable with, and accomplishment!

Hume's Warbler *Phylloscopus humei* — (2) Seen at higher elevation in forest areas we worked ahead of reaching rocky open sections on passes.

Sichuan Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus forresti* — (7) Tiny and highly active, often in mixed flocks. We often located this species by its call.

Yellow-streaked Warbler *Phylloscopus armandii* — (1) Seen morning and afternoon at the Zhaga Monastery site, nestled in a well forested mountain top setting.

Tickell's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus affinis* — (3) Good views on multiple occasions, this subspecies is quite yellow.

Buff-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus subaffinis* — (1) One individual seen and heard on Wawu Mountain from the boardwalk.

Gray-crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus tephrocephalus* — (3) Seen and heard, a very distinctive call, at Tanshi between our hide visits, and then at Wawu NP.

Bianchi's Warbler *Phylloscopus valentini* — (7) Seen and heard regularly, its distinctive call alerted us.

Martens's Warbler *Phylloscopus omeiensis* — (1) This one was a rascal, both John and Andrew finally dove into the brush to get a glimpse, the rest of us heard it sing repeatedly and only go deeper into the brush. Our only chance at this one.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* — (4) Fairly common, often in mixed flocks.

Large-billed Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus magnirostris* — (7) Widespread, we had good views and on some days just heard as regular in the background.

Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus castaniceps* — (1) What a cutie, we had good views as it perched up while traveling with a mixed flock.

Claudia's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus claudiae* — (6) Widespread, seen with regularity.

BUSH WARBLERS AND ALLIES: Cettiidae — (5)

Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler *Cettia major* — (1) Seen morning and afternoon, perched up and singing, at Jiajin Pass Viewpoint and vicinity.

Rufous-faced Warbler *Abroscopus albogularis* — (2) Seen on both visits to Huanhuaxi Park in Chengdu.

Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler *Horornis fortipes* — (5) Very vocal, we had them most regularly at Wawu NP.

Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler *Horornis acanthizoides* — (3) Seen at Wawu NP and Labahe Reserve.

Aberrant Bush Warbler *Horornis flavolivaceus* — (5) Seen surprisingly often for a furtive species. Active and feeding often at ground or shrub level.

LONG-TAILED TITS: Aegithalidae — (3)

White-browed Tit-Warbler *Leptopoecile sophiae* — (4) Peg spied an active family group on Balang Shan and they stayed long enough to get the scope on them and admire colors and behaviors. A memorable trip moment for sure, we suspect it was a nest site with recent fledglings.

Black-throated Tit *Aegithalos concinnus* — (2) Seen both days at Huanhuaxi Park in Chengdu, great views.

Black-browed Tit *Aegithalos iouschistos* — (5) Confiding, we got very close views of this species with particularly good views as we walked around the Danba Village area.

PARROTBILLS: Paradoxornithidae — (12)

(E) Rufous-tailed Babbler *Moupinia poecilotis* — (1) Bella had a specific stop that she hoped to show us this species and and voila, it cooperated. A personable, vocal species.

Golden-breasted Fulvetta *Lioparus chrysotis* — (2) Beautiful, colorful species seen at Wawu NP and Labahe Reserve.

(E) Chinese Fulvetta *Fulvetta striaticollis* — (1) Great to run into this endemic species when birding at the Zhaga Monastery. It was in a mixed flock at eye-level – spotted by Cathy - nice!

White-browed Fulvetta *Fulvetta vinipectus* — (1) We had this species morning and afternoon the day we drove the winding mountain road up to Zhaga Monastery, where dense fog greeted us but cleared.

Gray-hooded Fulvetta *Fulvetta cinereiceps* — (4) Seen well, busy in bamboo areas at four different sites.

Great Parrotbill *Paradoxornis aemodius* — (3) First heard, then found on several walks, an impressive, large and curious species. We watched them feed in forest bamboo patches.

Brown Parrotbill *Paradoxornis unicolor* — (2) Seen on two days at Wawu and Labahe, feeding at close range in Wawu NP.

(E) Three-toed Parrotbill *Paradoxornis paradoxus* — (2) A larger parrotbill, seen well at Wawu NP.

Fulvous Parrotbill *Suthora fulvifrons* — (3) A lovely smaller parrotbill with rich color tones, we saw them well with photo opportunities.

Golden Parrotbill *Suthora verreauxi* — (2) Stunning – a happy find for us with first a glimpse at Tanshi at one of the hides, then at Wawu NP.

Gray-hooded Parrotbill *Suthora zappeyi* — (1-HO) This one eluded us, we heard it from the section of boardwalk that crossed and extensive bamboo area, but it never came into view and fog moving in was not helpful that day.

Ashy-throated Parrotbill *Suthora alphonsiana* — (2) Seen early on in our trip, at Baxian Mountain and Pingshan. Best views were of a flock in the area some hiked to see the carved Buddha statue at a popular park site.

WHITE- EYES, YUHINAS, AND ALLIES: Zosteropidae — (4)

White-collared Yuhina *Parayuhina diademata* — (6) Quite common, active, widespread in family groups and mixed flocks.

Stripe-throated Yuhina *Yuhina gularis* — (1) Seen well, but only in Great Panda NP on a full day there in forest habitat.

Chestnut-flanked White-eye *Zosterops erythropleurus* — (1) Found in a mixed flock June 17 in Great Panda NP, a bird-rich day in lush forests.

Swinhoe's White-eye *Zosterops simplex* — (3) Seen at Baxian Mountain on the 12th, seen at Wawu NP and heard around our hotel in the Danba villages area.

TREE BABBLERS, SCIMITAR- BABBLERS, AND ALLIES: Timaliidae — (3)

Rufous-capped Babbler *Cyanoderma ruficeps* — (2) Seen at Baxian Mountain above our riverside hotel, and seen at the hides at Tanshi.

Streak-breasted Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis* — (2) Seen and heard, both visits to Baxian Mountain.

Black-streaked Scimitar-Babbler *Erythrogonys gravivox* — (5) Widespread and often vocal, we got good views on two days and heard it others.

LAUGHINGTHRUSHES AND ALLIES: Leiothrichidae — (13)

David's Fulvetta *Alcippe davidi* — (1-HO) Heard on the first afternoon visit to Baxian Mountain.

Black-faced Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron affine* — (3) Seen on three days at Wawu Mountain.

Elliot's Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron elliotii* — (9) Widespread and common.

Black-headed Sibia *Heterophasia desgodinsi* — (1) In a mixed flock at Wawu, a few got views but for many heard only.

Blue-winged Minla *Actinodura cyanouroptera* — (2) Seen at Tanshi between hide visits, and then at Wawu when we walked out from the hotel one morning, lower of the elevations explored there.

Red-billed Leiothrix *Leiothrix lutea* — (5) A colorful species we delighted to see well on three days, heard a few other days.

Red-tailed Minla *Minla ignotincta* — (1) One encounter in a mixed flock at Wawu, but seen well.

Emei Shan Liocichla *Liocichla omeiensis* — (4) We had just stunning views of this beauty while in a hide at Tanshi, so on three other days we did not pursue though enjoyed its calls. It can be elusive, we counted ourselves lucky with photo opportunities.

Chinese Hwamei *Garrulax canorus*— (2) Heard at Baxian Mountain and briefly seen at Tanshi.

Giant Laughingthrush *Ianthocincla maxima* — (3) Seen well our first day with it, an impressive species! We then heard it loud and distinct call on two other days from dense forest.

White-browed Laughingthrush *Pterorhinus sannio* — (3) Seen the first three full days of our journey, so lower and more rural habitats before ascending into the mountains.

Chinese Babax *Pterorhinus lanceolatus* — (4) Seen at Tanshi, Liaokanglin near Kangding, and then heard again in the Danba Village area on our morning walk.

Buffy Laughingthrush *Pterorhinus berthemyi*— (1) Seen at the hides and in-between at Tanshi.

KINGLETS: Regulidae — (1)

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* — (2) Seen well on two days in mixed conifer forest, usually paired up individuals within a mixed flock.

WALLCREEPER: Tichodromidae — (1)

Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria* — (1) A spectacular sighting as we drove up a mountain pass by Bella. We pulled over and got cracking views as it worked its way up some cliffs – wow.

NUTHATCHES: Sittidae — (3)

Przevalski's Nuthatch *Sitta przewalskii* — (1) Seen on the day we avoided fog and dropped lower to bird the forest edge shy of Jiajin Pass. Good views.

Yunnan Nuthatch *Sitta yunnanensis* — (2) A pair was seen in the afternoon at the Zhaga Monastery. Seen again at Jiajin Pass area.

Chestnut-vented Nuthatch *Sitta nagaensis* — (3) The most common of the nuthatches we encountered, it was confiding and got views of it singing at close range.

TREECREEPERS: Certhiidae — (2)

Hodgson's Treecreeper *Certhia hodgsoni* — (4) Seen in mixed flocks, often at close range where we could see its face pattern, a distinguishing characteristic.

Sichuan Treecreeper *Certhia tianquanensis* — (1) Seen at Wawu NP, our only find of this species.

WRENS: Troglodytidae — (1)

Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* — (4) Good views of this vocal species at varied locations.

DIPPERS: Cinclidae — (2)

White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus* — (1) Seen well on our final day, in a fast moving river with exposed rock beds. We got scope views and watched it feeding.

Brown Dipper *Cinclus pallasii* — (5) Seen on multiple days, some days quick views flying up river, on others a chance to admire it standing on rocks between feeding bouts.

STARLINGS: Sturnidae — (3)

Red-billed Starling *Spodiopsar sericeus* — (1) Seen at Huanhuaxi Park, and at a roadside rest stop.

White-cheeked Starling *Spodiopsar cineraceus* — (1) Seen at Xinglong Lake early in the trip.

Crested Myna *Acridotheres cristatellus* — (2) Common at the start of the trip, seen at three sites (Huanhuaxi Park and Xinglong Lake, Xiaojinggou Reservoir) in two days.

THRUSHES AND ALLIES: Turdidae — (4)

Grandala *Grandala coelicolor* — (1) Seen on a high pass, at 14,000+ feet in windswept rocky terrain, this electric jewel stood out so well. We had excellent views as it hung close to the road, a pair feeding. Great photos too.

Chinese Blackbird *Turdus mandarinus* — (2) Seen at the start of the trip in parks around Chengdu, a common bird in the city.

White-backed Thrush *Turdus kessleri* — (2) Seen in higher areas still vegetated, we got views of this species mainly in flight, when its coloration showed off clearly.

Chestnut Thrush *Turdus rubrocanus* — (9) The most common of the thrush family, seen on multiple outings. Rob got us all good scope views early on from the boardwalk where we had been admiring Red Pandas. They liked perching up, so in time all got views.

OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS: Muscicapidae — (22)

Dark-sided Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica* — (3) A species of mixed conifer forests with characteristic flycatcher sallying behavior, often returning to its same perch.

Ferruginous Flycatcher *Muscicapa ferruginea* — (1) Seen well, low in forest edge by the road, as we birded in Great Panda National Park.

Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis* — (4) Common at the start of our tour around rivers, towns, rural areas. Often showy and vocal.

Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassinus* — (6) Fairly common, this startling beauty often perches up so we got excellent views in a variety of habitats.

White-bellied Redstart *Luscinia phaenicuroides* — (3) A beautiful and confiding species, we got great views and photos in several locations.

Blue Whistling-Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus* — (6) Widespread, good views along river corridors and trail edges.

Firethroat *Calliope pectardens* — (3) This furtive species took some work but on a walk with great mountain views, we were able to get it spotted in the shrubs. Bella's uncanny ability to track birds really paid off as it passed back and forth, finally singing from a shrub above the trail in plain view. We heard them on two other days but did not try for a spotting after this excellent view.

Chinese Rubythroat *Calliope tschebaiewi* — ()

White-browed Bush-Robin *Tarsiger indicus* — (3-HO) This one sang and sang but was not responsive and we had to just admire its song...

Golden Bush-Robin *Tarsiger chrysaeus* — (2) An absolutely gorgeous species, so colorful, seen below us while on a boardwalk trail in full detail. Then seen again another day walking through forest with an ample shrub understory.

Slaty-backed Flycatcher *Ficedula erithacus* — (3) Another furtive species but one we were able to view well on several days.

Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophinata* — (6) A fairly common species we got good views of, at one sight we observed it coming and going from its active nest.

Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis* — (2) Seen on the last two days of our journey, good views as it perched up on treetops and highway guard rails.

Plumbeous Redstart *Phoenicurus fuliginosus* — (8) Where there was a stream we hiked along or drove beside, we found this active species. Common.

White-capped Redstart *Phoenicurus leucocephalus* — (5) Seen well, it was hard to stop taking photos of this beauty. Its habit of perching at length on tree tops was much appreciated.

Hodgson's Redstart *Phoenicurus hodgsoni* — (1) Tricky ID, but we finally nailed one in the Jiajin area.

White-throated Redstart *Phoenicurus schisticeps* — (3) Seen well in mountain environments, our photographers had to put a stop to their clicking, so visible and posing with ease.

Daurian Redstart *Phoenicurus aureus* — (8) Widespread and common.

Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush *Monticola rufiventris* — (2) A striking species, first seen well below us from a viewpoint in the scope, then encountered again roadside driving through the mountains.

Blue Rock-Thrush *Monticola solitarius* — (1) Seen in the Kangding area, posing up, a rich blue color only surpassed by Grandala.

Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus* — (1) Two individuals were seen as we walked from a mountain view stop for a travel break, where we met Icy (coffee vendor) and Glacier (her dog) and had a lot of fun. The stonechats were cooperative, posing among flowers on low fenceposts.

Gray Bushchat *Saxicola ferreus* — (1) Peg spotted one atop a young conifer as we drove out of the Tanshi hides, it stayed there long enough for everyone to pile out and see.

FLOWERPECKERS: Dicaeidae — (1)

Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker *Pachyglossa melanozantha* — (1) We just had one chance at this one, finding a pair feeding on a flowering tree as we started up Jiajin Mountain.

SUNBIRDS AND SPIDERHUNTERS: Nectariniidae — (2)

Mrs. Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae* — (2) Seen on two days, males and females, the male absolutely brilliant as it fed in bright orange blooms.

Fork-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga christinae* — (2) Seen at multiple locations on the first two days of the journey, from Chengdu.

WAXBILLS AND ALLIES: Estrildidae — (1)

White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata* — (2) Seen on the first afternoon visit to Baxian Mountain, then the next day at a rest stop in shrubbery.

ACCENTORS: Prunellidae — (4)

Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris* — (2) Seen our last two days at high elevation, rocky terrain.

Rufous-breasted Accentor *Prunella strophiota* — (2) Good views of this handsomely patterned species, first near Kangding, then at a viewpoint going up Jiajin Pass where it perched up below us atop a conifer for wonderful views.

Brown Accentor *Prunella fulvescens* — (1) We saw this species with a bold face pattern below us on a hillside as we birded various parts of the Zhaga Monastery.

Maroon-backed Accentor *Prunella immaculata* — (1) Great views, in a mixed flock, and then perched up at the Zhaga Monastery.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae — (2)

Russet Sparrow *Passer cinnamomeus* — (2) Seen around buildings at a roadside lunch stop, then in the Danba villages area.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* — (10) Common and widespread, especially around settlements and in towns.

WAGTAILS AND PIPITS: Motacillidae — (4)

Gray Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* — (8) Seen in forest areas and as we drove up and down various passes, often on our travel days.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* — (10) Very common and widespread, often around rivers, ponds, our hotel grounds.

Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus* — (3) Found with ease in rocky terrain on high passes.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* — (2) Seen well below us at the viewpoint going up Jiajin Pass, then seen in rocky terrain of that pass.

FINCHES, EUPHONIAS, AND ALLIES: Fringillidae — (17)

Collared Grosbeak *Mycerobas affinis* — (2) A lovely conifer forest species, seen at Zhaga Monastery and Jiajin Pass.

Spot-winged Grosbeak *Mycerobas melanozanthos* — (1) Three individuals, male and females, seen in a flowering tree where we also had flowerpeckers, walking a park in riverine habitat. Lovely!

Yellow-billed Grosbeak *Eophona migratoria* — (1) Seen only on our first full day at Huanhuaxi Park and Xinglong Lake, leaving Chengdu.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* — (1) Two bright individuals seen at Jiajin Pass.

Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch *Carpodacus pulcherrimus* — (2) A lovely species, one of the first we got to study well, first seen at Zhaga Monastery and later on one of the passes.

Pink-rumped Rosefinch *Carpodacus waltoni* — (3) We worked at ID on this species, bill shape, coloration, and found it several times in its higher elevation preferred habitats.

Streaked Rosefinch *Carpodacus rubicilloides* — (3) Seen at a roadside rest stop, near Kangding and from the Jiajin Pass Viewpoint we stopped at twice. None of the rosefinches were common so we valued time with each sighting.

Red-fronted Rosefinch *Carpodacus puniceus* — (1) Seen at high elevation, at almost 14,000 feet on Balang Shan, perching on a small prayer shack at the summit and flying about rocky terrain.

Crimson-browed Finch *Carpodacus subhimachalus* — (1) Seen in a mixed flock on Jiajin Pass.

Chinese White-browed Rosefinch *Carpodacus dubius* — (1) Seen in a mixed flock on Jiajin Pass.

Gray-headed Bullfinch *Pyrrhula erythaca* — (6) Found in forested areas, often alerted by call. In time everyone got good views.

Plain Mountain Finch *Leucosticte nemoricola* — (2) A high elevation species, seen at Jiajin and Balang Shan.

Black-headed Mountain Finch *Leucosticte brandti* — (1) John and then Peg saw this oversized junco-looking species, but there was so much going on at the time, it got upstaged by the brilliant Grandala.

Oriental Greenfinch *Chloris sinica* — (2) Seen in rural areas at the start of the trip and then in our hotel grounds the final day.

Twite *Linaria flavirostris* — (1) Seen at two stops on the same day, near Kangding, in flocks, high count was six.

Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* — (1) Mark had a photo that clenched the ID of one seen atop a conifer in dense fog at the start of our birding at Zhaga Monastery. We also noted the call as it flew but nice to have photo backup!

Tibetan Serin *Spinus thibetanus* — (2) Seen in mixed conifer forest, often in mixed flocks.

OLD WORLD BUNTINGS: Emberizidae — (1)

Godlewski's Bunting *Emberiza godlewskii* — (2) Colorful, we saw this species well near Kangding and on a walk from Zhaga Monastery.

MAMMALS: — (17 in the wild, plus Giant Panda at a Panda Center)

Tibetan Macaque *Macaca thibetana* — (5) Quite common near Wawu NP, and seen on a lot of our travel days. A group found us birding along a roadside and one male got fairly aggressive, hissing at us wanting into our packs – not good!

Himalayan Marmot *Marmota himalayana* — (3) Fat and chubby on alpine vegetation, we enjoyed these at varied montane locations.

Black-lipped (Plateau) Pika *Ochotona curzoniae* — (1) Seen across the road from the Jiajin Pass Viewpoint where we watched rosefinches below us. We got good views on both sides of a flowering mound of grass and forbs. Quite the cutie!

Woolly Hare *Lepus oiostolus*— (1) One large individual seen on the way down the mountain from Zhaga Monastery.

Pere David's Rock Squirrel *Sciurotamias davidianus*— (1)

Pallas's Squirrel *Callosciurus erythraeus*— (3) Common in the lower elevations at the start of our trip.

Perny's Long-nosed Squirrel *Dremomys pernyi*— (1) Seen well at the Tanshi hides.

Swinhoe's Striped Squirrel *Tamiops swinhoei*— (4) Quite tame at Wawu, they would run the rails of the boardwalk and it felt like if invited they would jump on you. Very chipmunk like, confiding.

Leopard Cat *Prionailurus bengalensis* — (1) Incredible sighting on our night drive, it crossed the road and we all got a view, then we got out and watched it climb a hill into dense vegetation. We were thrilled.

Chinese Red Panda *Ailurus fulgens* — (4) We saw five different individuals. The first two we saw were at Wawu NP, on a foggy afternoon, they were perched out in the open in trees about eye-level off the park boardwalk. We filmed them preening and sleeping with tail curled around, the adorable factor very high. John T. found another lying on a low mossy downed log. We stopped the bus, hopped out, and were able to watch it climb a tree and investigate, then go back to ground to scamper away. And on another day Bella spotted one from the bus, we got scopes out, more good views.

Asiatic Black Bear *Ursus thibetanus* — (2) Andrew found one below us on a road we walked at the Zhaga Monastery, a few got glimpses but it blended into the dense oaks very quickly. Then Bella found another at a different site, buried in thick vegetation but discernable in her thermal image camera.

Chinese Goral *Naemorhedus griseus* — (2) Seen first on our night drive, in the spotlight. Then on a mountain pass.

Bharal (Blue Sheep) *Pseudois nayaur* — (1) We got good views of very distant individuals, on a ridgeline at Balang Shan.
Tufted Deer *Elaphodus cephalophus* — (2) A handsome small deer, seen at two locations.
Reeve's Muntjac *Muntiacus reevesi*— (1) Seen in the Kangding area.
Red Deer *Cervus elaphus* — (3) Seen in small groups while at Great Panda NP.
Sambar *Rusa unicolor* — (3) Seen on hillsides feeding, in mountain areas of Great Panda NP.
Of note: (Captive at Panda Center) Giant Panda *Ailuropoda melanoleuca* — (1) We did not see this species in the wild, though we enjoyed being in their habitat and imagining where they lived and fed. At the Panda Center we had wonderful views of adults and young, and learned a lot.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS – (2)

Emei Music Frog *Nidirana daunchina*— () We heard this small frog keep up a chorus much of the night, male and female dueting. They live in subtropical moist montane forests and make a nest in mud burrows.
(l)**Red-eared Water Slider** *Trachemys scripta elegans* — () Invasive in China, this species is native to the southern USA.