

SICHUAN, CHINA

May 23rd – June 11th 2004

by Fredrik Ellin, Erik Landgren and Peter Schmidt



Below Balan Shan Pass, Wolong

Introduction

The idea for this trip was conceived after the three of us having consumed a few beers too many at a party in February. Since all of us were able to get time of work and we still thought it was a good idea a couple of weeks later, we soon started to make the arrangements.

Firethroats and Rufous-headed Robins arrive to their breeding grounds fairly late in the season. Mainly for this reason, we decided to go in the end of May, even though we knew that by this time most migrants had already passed by. Initially, our intention was to visit also the Tibetan plateau on the way to Jiuzhaigou, but well in Sichuan, we soon realized that we would risk spending too much of our limited time on the roads and finally choose to stay more days in Wolong and in Jiuzhaigou.

Although any attempt to communicate with people is hampered by the language barrier, we found most of the Chinese to be very friendly and helpful. The infamous crowds reported

by others on Emei Shan were not a big problem and in Jiuzhaigou very few of the tourists leave the paved roads and boardwalks.

Although all places visited offered some very impressive scenery, all of us thought that the visit to Wolong and Balan Shan was the nicest experience. Not only because this was the most accessible and less crowded place, but also because the alpine meadows and forests were quite extraordinary. The conifer forest a few kilometres in on the trail behind the Wuyipung research station was truly magical, and is worth a visit on its own. Also the sunny morning at the Gong Gan Ling pass was great with singing Siberian Rubythroats, Kessler's Thrushes and Rosefinches on the edge of the Tibetan plateau. Except for remote areas and the natural reserves (though also in parts of Wolong!), Sichuan appears to be a large construction area and the roads were jammed with large Dong Feng trucks shipping material all over the province. Extensive logging and general environmental disaster is obvious along the road between Chengdu and Songpan or Wolong.

Birding high-lights of the trip were, amongst others, sightings of 3 *Tarsiger*- and 4 *Luscinia*-species including both Firethroat and Rufous-headed Robin, Emei Liochicla, Giant Laughingthrush, White-browed, Père David's and Fire-capped tits, 14 *Phylloscopus*-warblers, Crested Tit-warbler, Tibetan Snowcock and Snow Partridge. In only three weeks you will inevitably miss many of the not too difficult species. E.g. Sichuan Jay, Slaty Bunting, Rufous, Grey-Hooded and Brown parrotbills, Mupinia and a few of the rosefinches, laughingthrushes (maybe bad timing since we did not see or hear many LTs at all), pheasants and Wood Snipe (partly due to bad weather at Balan Shan), were not recorded on this trip.

The aim with this report is to provide a recent update on the most commonly visited birding places in Sichuan. We have only included written site descriptions in this report. Some good maps and also complementary information can be found in the reports mentioned later in this text and these can all be found on the birding trip report site "eurobirding.com". For further details on this trip, contact Fredrik Ellin; fredellin@hotmail.com, Erik Landgren; erik.landgren@privat.utfors.se or Peter Schmidt; Peter.schmidt@klinimm.uu.se



Male Blue-Fronted Redstart (Phoenicurus frontalis) and Chestnut Thrush, (Turdus rubrocanus) in Wolong Natural Reserve.

Itinerary

23/5 Flight to Beijing from Stockholm, Arlanda.
24/5 Beijing, Summer Palace.
25/5 Flight to Chengdu and on to Emei Shan. Birding Bao Guo/Fuhu Si.
26/5 Emei Shan, Bao Guo/Fuhu Si and Jieyin Hall.
27/5 Emei Shan, Golden Summit-Xixiang.
28/5 Emei Shan, Xixiang-Xiang Feng.
29/5 Emei Shan, Xiang Feng-Wannian.
30/5 Emei Shan, Jieyin Hall and Bao Guo.
31/5 Taxi to Chengdu then on to Wolong. Birding Sawan.
1/6 Wuyipung and Sawan, Wolong.
2/6 Balan Shan, Wolong.
3/6 Wuyipung, Wolong.
4/6 Transport to Songpan.
5/6 Gong Gan Ling and then on to Jiuzhaigou.
6/6 Jiuzhaigou. Birding Pearl Shoals and Primeval Forest.
7/6 Jiuzhaigou. Kezegou Valley.
8/6 Jiuzhaigou (Kezegou Valley), Gong Gan Ling, Songpan.
9/6 To Chengdu.
10/6 Chengdu. Birding Du Fu's Thatched Cottage.
11/6 Flight to Beijing and then on to Arlanda.

Places visited

Emei Shan. This famous Buddhist pilgrim mountain is situated about 150 km southwest of Chengdu. After taking the bus to the top, we walked down from Jieyin Hall (2500m) via Xixiang pool (2100m), Xiang Feng (1700m), Hongchuanping (1100m) to Wannian (700m)



Jieyin Hall (2500m), Emei Shan.

and also did some birding around the Bao Guo and Fuhu monasteries (5-700m). The weather is unpredictable on the Golden Summit (3100m) and the place is very crowded. Also, the best birding appears to be along the monorail trail to the Peak of Ten Thousand Buddhas, which is a hassle since you have to sneak in (as we failed to do). For the specialities found here, especially Grey-Hooded Parrotbill, opting for Wawu Shan may actually be the better alternative, although the weather situation should be the same. Further down on Mt Emei, the weather is a little more reliable and birding is quite straight forward as

far as options goes. Except for the areas around Xiang Feng and Wannian monasteries, there are very few side trails to be found, which can be a bit frustrating at times. Most of the time you will simply have to rely on the birds coming to the main trail since it is not very rewarding, and sometimes impossible, to explore the very dense vegetation and steep slopes. Although Emei Shan attracts crowds of tourists, we were quite undisturbed most of the time with only occasional tourists passing us while birding. Most people are found from the bus stop at Leidong Terrace up on the way to the Golden Summit and 2-3 kilometres before and



Birdwatching Monks, Xiang Feng, Emei Shan.



*Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon (*Treron sphenura*) and Speckled Wood Pigeon (*Columba hodgsonii*), Xixiang, Emei Shan.*

around Wannian. The stretch with very nice forest between Xixiang and Xiang Feng was more or less devoid of people. Meals and drinks are widely available in little vendor booths along the trails and accommodation is easily found around or in the monasteries. Birding is better done walking back down from the top since the trails are fairly steep most of the way.

Sawan. Refers in this text to the slopes behind the hotel northeast of the village in Wolong. Can be reached from several trailheads along the road and constitutes a mesh of small trails taking you up to grassy hill sides, scrub and forested areas. This is where you have the best shot at Golden Pheasant and may also find Chinese Babax, Mupinia and Slaty Bunting (on the way up). Many other hillsides along the Wolong valley looked very much the same from below and are likely to be just as good.

Wuyipung. This place is situated about 10 minutes by car east of Sawan village, Wolong. Just before a larger bridge leading to a power station there is a wooden suspension bridge. The bridge is reached by passing behind the houses by the road. On the other side of the bridge on



View from the trailhead to Wuyipung, Wolong.

the left hand side there is a larger rocky slope/dry creek. You walk about 200 m up the slope and then turn left into the woods on a small hairpin loop trail which ultimately will lead you to the ridge top at Wuyipung after some 15 right hand turns. The trail more or less follows a smaller power line. The climbing is never very steep but requires some effort since it takes at least 50 minutes without stops. At the top, the trail continues for about one kilometre to the Wuyipung research station. Others have arranged with the resident staff to stay over night at the station, but we never tried this option.

From here we birded along the ridge top on the main trail back to the hairpin loop trail and also on three different trails starting from the research station. The first of these (referred to as trail A in the species list) descends in front of the station 3-400 m through some bamboo before the trail disappears onto a ridge. We never went further down. The second trail (trail B) starts behind the station and is initially very steep uphill. After 2-300 m it levels out (a part from a few shorter climbs along the way) and eventually reaches a beautiful conifer forest

with bamboo undergrowth before the trail peters away after 4-5 kilometres. The third trail (trail C) is an extension of the main trail and starts immediately on the other side of the research station. Initially it descends slowly before more or less levelling out. The trail passes two small streams, the first in which you will find a few concrete containers. This trail probably continues well beyond the second stream, but we only went on for about 1500 m before going back.

Balan Shan pass. Some 60 km west from Sawan the pass is reached within 1½-2 hours with car (much depending on the visibility in the fog). Along the way there are milestones all the way up to the pass at a little more than 4500m above sea level. When you reach a big



Obelisk Stone Monument, Balan Shan, Wolong.

white obelisk stone monument on the left hand side (~3300m), the forest starts to give way for scrub and alpine meadows. We never understood where to find the meadows where the Wood Snipes are supposed to display, but later we were told that milestone km 102 at about 3500 m is a known spot for this species. Since the mountain was more or less fogged in the whole morning, we did not get a very good overview of the area higher up and much of our birding was made under appalling conditions. Only at around 500 m below the roadmender's huts (~ 3,500m) we had 45 minutes of very nice weather before

the fog returned and made further efforts futile. Below the monument we were at least out of the fog and we walked most of the way back to Deng Shen village where you are back at the river level. From milestone Km 80 and down birding was very good and at least 5 singing Firethroats were noted. Because of the weather we unfortunately never got to see the other side of the pass. According to others, here you have a good chance to see White-browed Tit-warbler, Pink-rumped Rosefinch and White-tailed Rubythroat.

Gong Gan Lin pass. We made three stops in this area situated along the main road north of Songpan approximately one hour with car before arriving to Jiuzhaigou. The first stop was on the left side of the road 1½-2 kilometres south of the arch indicating the top of the pass at ~3500 m. The area consisted of scrub and a small stream. In the middle, a small hut and a cattle enclosure was situated just by a smaller hill in the otherwise relatively flat surrounding. This is where we had White-browed tit and several Siberian Rubythroats singing in the scrub.



Gong Gan Ling 1½-2 km before the Pass



Entrance, Jiuzhaigou.

unusual challenges as far as birding goes. As annoying as this may seem, with so many visitors each year, this is no doubt the only system that will work in the long run to avoid too much disturbance to the park environment. First of all it is not possible to bring your own vehicle into the park. Secondly, it is officially impossible to stay inside the park, which is not particularly favourable since the park busses only depart at around 7 a.m. (at best). Also, the last bus back to the entrance e.g. from Primeval Forest leaves already at 4 p.m. and it is more than 30 km of walking if you cannot hitch a ride. This problem can be solved by going to e.g.



*Habitat of Rufous-Headed Robin (*Luscinia ruficeps*), Kezegou Valley, Jiuzhaigou.*

The second stop was made on the other side of the pass on the right hand side (coming from Songpan) of the road along 4-5 buildings referred to as “roadmender’s huts” in other reports. Behind the houses, a trail leads up the hill along scrub for 5-600 m before reaching a conifer forest further up. We also made a shorter stop 4-500 m further down from the buildings and birded in the young open conifer forest.

Jiuzhaigou. This park, with a recently opened airport, is one of China’s most popular tourist sites and is visited by thousands of people every day during spring and autumn. The park offers a couple of unusual challenges as far as birding goes. As annoying as this may seem, with so many visitors each year, this is no doubt the only system that will work in the long run to avoid too much disturbance to the park environment. First of all it is not possible to bring your own vehicle into the park. Secondly, it is officially impossible to stay inside the park, which is not particularly favourable since the park busses only depart at around 7 a.m. (at best). Also, the last bus back to the entrance e.g. from Primeval Forest leaves already at 4 p.m. and it is more than 30 km of walking if you cannot hitch a ride. This problem can be solved by going to e.g. the Tibetan village Zechawa (along the Long Lake leg) where there is apparently no problem finding people who will offer you a room for the night. Still, transportation remains a problem, although it may be possible to arrange lifts with the locals. In our case, since our interpreter insisted that this was not possible and in any case illegal, we decided to avoid the conflict and stay outside the park. For this reason we missed a few hours of birding time every day and hence probably a few birds, but still managed to see most of what we had come for. Once inside the park, the third problem is that you are not allowed to go into the forest, although there are trails obviously used by the locals. Unless you want to stick to boardwalk birding, which is not necessarily bad, you therefore have to sneak in and out on the trails out of sight of the park officials. This was mainly a problem at Pearl Shoals and at the Primeval forest. At the trailhead to Kezegou valley there are no tourists and therefore no park staff.

Pearl Shoals is reached by bus on the Primeval forest leg. Just before the lavatory area, after having passed the boardwalk over the shallow waterfalls, there is a small trail

on the left ultimately leading to the main trail to Danzugou Valley. Here, you will follow the trail along a stream and pass by 2 dams before you reach the area where Rufous-headed Robins have been seen the past years.

Primeval forest is one of two end stations (the other one being Long Lake which we never visited) after the road forks at Nourilang. Behind the big platform you will have to try to make your self invisible and then either go left or right into the forest. We only visited the left side where there is a fairly large dry river bed climbing slowly up the mountain. The forest looked good all over, but it is along the river bed that most sightings of Rufous-headed Robins are made. We did not see the Robin, nor any Sichuan Jays, but a few other good birds including Three-banded Rosefinch and Maroon-backed Accentor.

Kezegou valley, also known as the Robin valley, is reached by taking a bus to Lower Seasonal Lake (Long Lake leg) and then going back 1-2 kilometres on the boardwalk before turning right onto an obvious trail just before you cross the stream. The first 500 m is a fairly open area with smaller trees and bushes. Further up towards the three dams, you enter an open mixed conifer forest where the trees subsequently become larger with a great deal of dead wood on the ground. Beyond the dams the forest continues until you reach a small meadow, above which we walked only a few 100 meters before returning. Others have recorded Sichuan treecreeper further up this hill, we had our only bar-tailed treecreepers just before the meadow.



*Grey-Backed Shrike (Lanius tephronotus),
Gong Gan Ling.*

General information

Money

We used cash everywhere except in Chengdu. US dollars could be exchanged in the hotels in Sawan and in Jiuzhaigou. ATM machines can easily be found in the airports and in Chengdu. Our VISA credit cards only worked in Bank of China ATM's though.

Language

Unless you know Chinese, sign language is the only option. Except in the larger cities, very few people know a single word of English. If you do not bring an interpreter you had better bring good maps to be able to get to the right places and you are probably in for plenty of surprises at the restaurants.

Accommodation

In Beijing we stayed at a standard hotel which was booked from the airport. Emei Shan Grand hotel in Bao Guo was good standard and cost 390 Yuan for a 3-bed room. Accommodation is widely available in the monasteries on Emei Shan. The rooms are generally very basic but OK. We paid between 50 and 250 Yuan/night for all three of us. In Wolong, Jiuzhaigou and Songpan we stayed at hotels with fairly high standard since they were not very expensive anyway (3-400 Yuan/night for all three of us). In Chengdu we stayed in a 400 Yuan 3-bed room at the Traffic Hotel (www.trafficHotel.com) which is situated near the centre and can be recommended.

Meals and water

The food is very cheap, typically less than 20 Yuan including drinks, but not too exciting. Not much taste but you can spice up most meals with chilli. Needless to say we had a lot of rice and noodles. On a few occasions we tried beef or yak with potatoes which was OK. Menus were in English on Emei Shan, but generally in Chinese elsewhere. Breakfast is very basic and mainly consists of dumplings and cookies so you had better boost it with some fruits, biscuits or (spongy) bread to be found in street shops. Bottled water (2-6 Yuan), beer and soft drinks (8-10 Yuan) are available in restaurants and street shops everywhere.

Transportation

To enter China requires a valid VISA. The airplane ticket with China Air from Stockholm to Beijing and then on to Chengdu was 6830 SEK (~750 euros). Remember the airport tax (90 Yuan international and 50 Yuan domestic flights).

Taxis in Beijing and in Chengdu are very cheap and cost less than 2 Yuan per kilometre. We also tried the subway in Beijing which was 3 Yuan for one token.

We hired a taxi both ways between Chengdu and Bao Guo, Emei Shan, a 2 hrs ride for 300 Yuan. The bus or train is probably 1/10 of this price. From Bao Guo there are busses running to Leidong Terrace (just below Jieyin Hall from where there is a cable car to the summit) every 30 minutes starting from 7.00 am. The ride takes about 1 hour. The cable cars to the summit and down from Wannian were 40 and 30 Yuan, respectively, and opened at around 7.00 am. Distances on Mt Emei: Golden Summit to Jieyin Hall; 2 km, to Xixiang pool; a further 9 km, to Xiang Feng; 6 km, to Hongchuanping; 5 km, to Wannian; 6 km. From Hongchuanping to Bao Guo and Fuhu monasteries; 10-11 km.

For the remaining of the trip, we pre-arranged a land cruiser with a driver and interpreter from the China Golden Bridge Travel Service (e-mail: gblky@mail.sc.cninfo.net) for 10 days to go to Wolong, Balan Shan and Jiuzhaigou. This agency was founded by the late Joshua, mentioned in many previous reports, and is now run by his wife Jia Min. The price was 104 US\$ for the driver and vehicle and 30 US\$ for the guide per day, 1340 US\$ in total all included (except accommodation and meals for ourselves) to be paid in advance. The service was OK and we were taken to the places where we wanted to go, also early in the morning, although the guide was not particularly interested in what we were doing and could not provide very much useful information about the birding localities.

National Park fees

The entrance fee of 120 Yuan for Emei Shan is paid at a bus stop on the way up to Leidong Terrace. The entrance fee for Jiuzhaigou is 145 Yuan + 90 Yuan for the bus ticket every day in the park, which we thought was a genuine robbery.



Rain in Wolong. Female Whitebrowed Rosefinch (Carpodactus thura).

Weather and climate

Temperatures were around 20 °C most days, depending a bit of course on the altitude. On the top of Emei Shan it can become quite cold even at this time of year, but this was not the case at the time of our visit. Except for our fogged in day on Balan Shan and our two futile attempts to bird on the Golden Summit on Emei Shan, we experienced quite nice weather and very little rain. We were probably lucky, since others have reported intense raining on many of the days at this time of the year.

Equipment

Fredrik brought his MD-player and the discs of Birds of Tropical Asia 2 by Scharringa. A scope was of limited use on Emei Shan, in Wolong and in Jiuzhaigou. At the Balan Shan pass and in the Gong Gan Ling area it was quite helpful. An altimeter would have been of great help at Balan Shan, especially considering that we did not find the Wood Snipe spot.

Reference trip reports

Birding in Sichuan and Yunnan, China 6 June-29 July 2003 by Frank E Reindt
Wolong, Sichuan 7-10 November 2003 by Björn Andersson
Sichuan, Kina 2002 5-21.5 by Risto Skjelnes
Sichuan Province, China, June 1-30 2001 by Ron Hoff
Sichuan, China June 3-23, 2000 by Mark Elwonger, Ornifolks
Western China and northeast Tibet birding 21 May-16 July 2000 by Jon Hornbuckle.
Sichuan Province 26th May-11th June 1995 by Jan Vermeulen

Daily Log

May 23rd. Met at Arlanda for the 5:50 pm direct flight to Beijing. Trying to catch up with some pre-trip studies that none of us had had much time for.

May 24th. Landed at Beijing International Airport at 8.30 am local time. Booked a hotel from the airport. Afternoon spent at Summer Palace, meeting AviFauna on their last day of the annual Happy Island/Beidahe trip. They were very satisfied, having bagged 237 species. Saw a couple of trip exclusives.



Yellow Bittern (Ixobrychus sinensis), Azure-winged Magpie (Cyanopica cyane) and Grey-capped Woodpecker (Dendrocopus canipillus), Summer Palace, Beijing.

May 25th. Morning at Tinnamen Square and then on to the airport for the Chengdu flight. When landing in Chengdu we arranged a taxi directly to Bao Guo, Emei Shan. Birded the surroundings in the evening, night at Emei Shan Grand Hotel.

May 26th. Morning around Fuhu Si. Took the 9.30 bus up to Leidong Terrace where we stayed at a rather overpriced 3 bed room in one of the hotels at the parking area. Birded midday around Jieyin Hall back down on the paved road to Leidong Terrace and then afternoon on the trail to Xixiang. Heard Emei Liocichla at latter. Came close but did not get any looks. Night at Leidong Terrace.



White-browed Laughingthrush (Garrulax sannio) and Collared Finchbill (Spizixos semitorques), around Fuhu Si/Bao Guo monasteries, Emei Shan.

May 27th. Took the first cabin to the Golden Summit at 07.00. Thick mist at the top with maximum 10 m visibility hampered birding and made orientation hard. At last located the dump where we got great looks of Chestnut-capped Bush Warbler and then taped in an immature male Golden Bush Robin. Tried to sneak out along the monorail track as

recommended by other birders but the staff stopped us. Still thick mist and disappointed we started the walk back to Leidong Terrace, seeing two more Golden Bush Robins on the way back. Reaching the hotel at noon we had lunch and then on to Xixiang, by now the mist had lifted even on the summit as it looked from below. Marvellous mixed conifer forest at around 2300 m where we heard two *Leiocichlas* and eventually saw one of them. Heard a Temminck's Tragopan calling. At Xixiang got two very basic rooms just before the monastery. Afternoon spent scoping the slopes seeing flocks of Wedge-tailed Green Pigeons and a few Speckled Wood Pigeons.

May 28th. Early morning start with a very confiding White-bellied Redstart just at the monastery. A few hundred meters after the monastery we had a calling Lady Amherst's Pheasant very close to the trail, but it was impossible to see. At the end of the day we had heard at least 6 calling males. Good birding in the bamboo when the trail started to level out before the crossing Wannian/Xiang Feng. A pair of Spotted Laughingthrush crossed the trail, a singing Emei Leaf Warbler up a slope and good looks of a splendid pair of Golden-breasted Fulvettas. The good weather in the morning changed to an hour of rain at about 8 am. We continued on to Xiang Feng seeing Spotted Forktail and hearing Temminck's Tragopan calling in the distance. Reached Xiang Feng at 11 and then birded around the monastery and all the way back to the first stream downhill the crossing. Highlights were another *Liocichla* seen, the only Grey-winged Blackbird of the trip, the first Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo and good looks of Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler. Several Vivid Niltavas singing around the monastery in the evening and PS and EL had Black-chinned Yuhina. Night in the monastery.



Mrs Gould's Sunbird (Aethopyga gouldiae) and female Collared Grosbeak (Mycerobas affinis), Wolong.

May 29th. Another early morning start. Soon had a Lady Amherst's Pheasant close to the trail. Trying with the tape but it did not come any closer. 2 more Tragopans calling in the distance. Along the steep slopes along this stretch we heard at least 5 Emei Leaf Warblers singing but we did not manage to see them. Very frustrating but a compensation was a female Temminck's Tragopan with at least 2 chicks seen by the trail and a male Bay Woodpecker. Continued on to Wannian seeing Chinese Blue Flycatcher, Black-chinned Yuhina, Sulphur-breasted Warbler and Ashy-throated Parrotbill en route. At Wannian we took the Pipeline Trail behind the monastery as recommended although an old man tried to stop us since he thought it was too dangerous. The trail passed some steep parts but was no problem. Heard a quite close Lady Amherst's and saw Dusky Fulvetta and Black-chinned Yuhina, but little else. Asian Barred Owlet called at the temple at dusk.

May 30th. Strong winds and rain during the night. Calling Collared Scops Owl just before dawn. Rain continued in the morning. Took the first cable car to the parking at Wannian and from here took a bus up to Leidong Terrace in an attempt to have a last go at the summit. Unfortunately the weather got worse and the cable car was not running presumably due to strong winds. Disappointed again we turned back by bus to Bao Guo. Night at Grand Hotel.

May 31st. The first hours in the morning were spent on half heartedly birding around Fuhu Si seeing Chinese Bamboo Partridge. Then taxi at 09.30 to Chengdu, arriving at Traffic Hotel in time for a quick lunch at McDonald's. After some misunderstanding we realised that our guide was one of the ladies waiting at the reception and soon we had packed our gear in the Mitsubishi van. 3 hours 15 min later we reached Sawan, Wolong. After dumping the gear in the hotel room we tried to find one of the trails up the slope behind our hotel. At last found one. A moment of luck and a female Golden Pheasant ran over the track. Then we heard several males call around us.

June 1st. A little late start saw us on the trail to Wuyipung at 06.30. Our first Firethroat were heard singing in the slope close to the trail. Tried with the tape but no luck. Reached the ridge top after about one hour. Heard a growling in the valley below us that we thought might have come from a bear. Birded along the ridge top on both sides of the research station, but birding was quite slow. Found a family of Great Parrotbills consisting of a pair with tree fledglings. A Sooty Tit and stunning views of a Three-toed Parrotbill where we actually could count the toes! Then located a second Firethroat in the bamboo just as you reach the ridge top. Hid in the bamboo and then started to play the tape. The bird was very responsive but we had great



Olive-backed pipit (Anthus hodgsoni), Below Balan Shan, Wolong and Stone Chat (Saxicola torquata), Gong Gan Ling.

problems to see it as it moved very fast in the bamboo, at last giving up. Found still another on our climb down but this bird quickly moved away when we played the tape. End of the day on the slope behind the hotel seeing nothing new.

June 2nd. After some negotiation the evening before we left the hotel at 04.00 for the Balan Shan pass. Thick mist made the driving a bit hard and we had to go very slowly. At last we reached the white obelisk stone monument at dawn. Not getting our maps to fit, we probably did not get to the right place for the Wood Snipes in time. Heard White-eared and Koklass Pheasant calling, but the mist was rising and soon everything was swept in a thick white blanket. Went on to the pass but could not get out of the fog. Very frustrated soon turned back and it started raining. Then stopped just below roadmender's Hut. The rain stopped and visibility suddenly became much better. After a while the sun even appeared. Scoping the slopes revealed a Tibetan Snowcock and not less than four Snow Partridges above us. A distant Grandala in flight but then the mist came back. Returned to the monument where we found a Giant Laughingthrush. Then the visibility became better below us so we walked parts of the road down to Deng Shen village back at river level. At least 5 Firethroats were heard but only one was seen briefly after some climbing efforts. A roadside Chinese Babax was the only one on the trip as were a pair of Collared Grosbeaks. Then back to the hotel and some rest.

June 3rd. Up before dawn and started on the trail to Wuyipung in the first light. A Firethroat sang close to the trail with a second one further up the slope. Tried taping again and at last the bird came in and started singing just a few meters away giving crippling views for at least 15 min. A 3rd and 4th Firethroat were subsequently heard along the ridge. A female Temminck's



Siberian Rubythroat (Luscinia calliope), Gong Gan Ling.



A Beautiful Rosefinch (Carpodactus pulcherrimus) and a Hodgson's redstart (Phoenicurus hodgsoni), Gong Gan Ling.

Tragopan with 4 chicks crossed the trail giving nice views. Along the main trail Golden-breasted Fulvettas, a male White-browed Bush Robin (FE), a White-backed Woodpecker with a juvenile and Fire-capped Tit were seen. After this we walked further up from the research station reaching the ridge top above with majestic fir forest with interspersed rhododendron and dense bamboo undergrowth. Here we heard a song reminding us of a treecreeper in tone but consisting of a straight descending trill. Unfortunately we never saw the bird even if we suspected that it could have been the newly described Sichuan Treecreeper seen here before. The forest was rather different than around the research station and Tits and Goldcrest made up a substantial part of the birds here. On the way back the Tragopan family was seen again and a very confiding Long-tailed Thrush that jumped ahead of us along the trail for at least 500 m.

June 4th. FE and EL walked up the slope behind the hotel in the morning seeing a Chinese Leaf-Warbler while PS rested. Made a short stop at Wolong Panda Breeding Centre and then on to Songpan. Stopped a few times because of road work and at one of those stops FE got a glimpse of a Wallcreeper. Otherwise rather uneventful. Night in Songpan.

June 5th. Left the hotel at 7 am. Lovely sunny weather, seeing a Black Kite and a flock of Cattle Egret north of Songpan as well as many Common Pheasants in the open and closer to the Gong Gan Lin pass several Kessler's Thrushes. Stopped about 1 km before the pass and birded the scrub. Several Siberian Rubythroats were soon discovered as was Père Davids Laughingthrush, Brown Shrike, flocks of Beautiful Rosefinch and three Richard's Pipit. EL and FE were lucky to find a White-browed Tit collecting nest material but it disappeared before PS got there and was not seen again. Then continued to the conifer/scrub on the other side of the pass. A few White-browed Rosefinches but not much else of interest since we never got into the proper forest. Reached Jiuzhaigou at about lunch time. Realised that it would be hard to stay inside the park since we were accompanied by our guide and driver, our guide insisting that it was impossible. Since the cost was 235 Yuan a day to enter the park we tried the scrubby hillsides outside the entrance. Not many birds but at last found a flock that contained a family of Chinese Nuthatch and a Great Spotted Woodpecker. In the evening met Bernard and Erika van Elegem from Belgium. They had been to Pearl Shoals without scoring the Robin.

June 6th. Took first bus in the morning and since it was Sunday it was enough people for it to leave at 7.00 am. Jumped of at Pearl Shoals and sneaked in on to the track up Danzugou



Another Rubythroat and a Kessler's Thrush (Turdus kessleri), Gong Gan Ling.

Valley. A Scaly Thrush with a juvenile along the trail but otherwise we tried to walk as quickly as possible to reach the Robin areas. Got to good looking scrub beyond the second dam at 8.15 am. Then walked a further 2 km before we turned back walking slowly. No Robin was heard. Had a few Orange-flanked Bush Robins and a couple of Père David's tits. Then took bus back to the crossing and caught another up to Primeval Forest. Sneaked in from the boardwalk and then walked around for a while. Found Maroon-backed Accentor and a par of Three-banded Rosefinch but no Robin or Sichuan Jays. Then back to the parking area where we were forced to leave already at 3.00 pm. Got off at Reed Lake where we tried for Spectacled Parrotbill without luck. Bernard and Erika had flushed a Sichuan Owl but had not heard any Robin either. Discussed tactics to find the Robin and decided to try the "old" valley, Kezegou Valley, close to the Tibetan village Zechawa on the Long Lake leg.

June 7th. First bus did not leave until 7.15 am and we had to jump off at Nourilang. Waited for another 15 min before picked up. Got to the valley entrance at 8.00 am. Sunny weather and a couple of 100 meters in from the boardwalk we all froze when we heard a Rufous-headed Robin singing. It kept to dense willow-like scrub about 3-5 m in height. After a while tried the tape, but it just started to sing more intensely without coming close. After an hour we gave up since it was singing very sparsely. Walked on up the valley finding a very fresh pug mark from a bear. When looking at this we suddenly heard another Rufous-headed Robin singing ahead of us. A quick walk up to the second dam and we were close. After a few very long minutes it was discovered on a mossy log sitting with its back towards us. All of us got to see it before it jumped behind the log, showing quickly for a second time. Then Bernard and Erika turned up having seen a Sichuan Grouse just 50 m from us. We all tried to see the Robin again as it was singing quite intensely, but no success. We decided to continue up the valley. At the third dam we heard and saw a *Bradypterus* warbler that seemed to belong to the Spotted Bush Warbler-group with a plain "dzeep" song. As it just had disappeared a Rufous-headed Robin started singing from an open area in the forest but instead of seeing this bird another flew in and perched high at about 5 m probably to check the intruder out. After some quick glimpses they both disappeared. We continued a few hundred meters from where we had to cross the stream but turned back as the trail got steeper and the forest less good. A couple of Bar-tailed Treecreepers were new. Continuing down to the boardwalk we walked it down to the Tibetan village but we did not see much of interest except a pair of White-winged Grosbeaks.

June 8th. Last day in Jiuzhaigou. We decided to try for the Robin once more since we all wanted even better looks of it. At the second dam 2 birds were singing but they kept out of sight. The area around the third dam was somewhat more open and after a while we heard a bird singing. Then it jumped out in the open mostly keeping on the mossy fallen logs or very



Pugmark of a bear along the trail in Kezegou Valley, Jiuzhaigou.

low on branches. We all got great looks as it showed for periods during a couple of minutes. After this we soon had to walk back to the road and take the bus back to our hotel. At lunch we left for Gong Gan Lin. Here we stopped at the roadmender's hut and took the trail up the slope that leads to the forest. Once in the forest we soon heard a bird party where we were lucky to get a glimpse of a male Crested Tit-Warbler. A female White-throated Redstart in the scrub was new and we heard two parties of Blood pheasant. At about 4.00 pm strong winds and rain came upon us so birding became almost impossible. Unfortunately this weather continued all the way to Songpan. Night in Songpan.

June 9th. Left Songpan at 7.30 am for Chengdu. The way back was rather uneventful, except for some death wish overtakes by our driver, taking about 8 hours. Checked in at Traffic Hotel.

June 10th. Morning spent around Du Fu's Thatched Cottage Park seeing a few new species. Vinous-throated Parrotbill being the first bird seen, jumping in the hedges at the entrance. Afternoon spent shopping sleeping bags, jackets and other outdoor gear.

June 11th. 7.25 flight to Beijing and then on to Stockholm at 1.40 pm. Landed at Arlanda at about 4.00 pm Swedish time. FE continued to Kalmar and PS and EL to Uppsala.

Species list

226 species were recorded on this trip of which 14 only in Beijing.

MALLARD, *Anas platyrhynchos*

Recorded in small numbers at the Summer Palace in Beijing, on the way north from Songpan and in Jiuzhaigou.

LITTLE GREBE, *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

20+ at the Summer Palace in Beijing.

SNOW PARTRIDGE, *Lerwa lerwa*

4 birds on a slope at 4000 m, Balan Shan.

TIBETAN SNOWCOCK, *Tetraogallus tibetanus*

1 bird on the same slope as the snow partridges at 4000 m, Balan Shan.

CHINESE BAMBOO-PARTRIDGE, *Bambusicola thoracica*

Totally 5+ heard and 2 flushed on two dates Bao Guo, Emei Shan.

TEMMINCK'S TRAGOPAN, *Tragopan temminckii*

1 calling male above Xixiang, 2 calling males above Xiang Feng, 2 calling males and later a female with chicks below Xiang Feng, Emei Shan. A female with chicks were also seen on the main trail, Wuyipung, Wolong.

KOKLASS PHEASANT, *Pucrasia macrolopha*

1 bird heard at dawn near the monument, Balan Shan.

BLOOD PHEASANT, *Ithaginis cruentus*

A few heard on the slopes behind the roadmender's hut, Gong Gan Ling. A flushed pheasant on trail B, Wuyipung, was probably a female of this species.

WHITE EARED PHEASANT, *Crossoptilon crossoptilon*

A few birds heard in the fog at dawn around the monument, Balan Shan.

COMMON PHEASANT, *Phasianus colchicus*

Common north of Songpan and in Jiuzhaigou. The only pheasant that is easily seen.

LADY AMHERST'S PHEASANT, *Chrysolophus amherstiae*

6 calling males between Xixiang and Xiang Feng. 3 birds between Xiang Feng and Wannian. 4 birds along the pipeline trail, Wannian, Emei Shan. Appeared to be fairly common on Emei Shan but probably requires tremendous patience or luck to get views of along the narrow trails. None of which we had...

GOLDEN PHEASANT, *Chrysolophus pictus*

1 female seen and several males calling on the slopes behind the hotel in Sawan, Wolong. Again a species that requires more patience.

LITTLE EGRET, *Egretta garzetta*

2 birds seen en route north of Chengdu. Generally the landscape is more or less devoid of herons in Sichuan.

CATTLE EGRET, *Bubulcus ibis*

A flock of 15 birds seen en route between Songpan and Gong Gan Ling.

CHINESE POND-HERON, *Ardeola bacchus*

4-5 birds at the Summer Palace in Beijing.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON, *Nycticorax nycticorax*

20+ at the Summer Palace in Beijing.

YELLOW BITTERN, *Ixobrychus sinensis*

3 at the Summer Palace in Beijing.

CINNAMON BITTERN, *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*

3-4 birds in flight seen along the road north of Chengdu.

COMMON MOORHEN, *Gallinula chloropus*

10+ at the Summer Palace in Beijing.

ORIENTAL HONEY-BUZZARD, *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

1 bird soaring above Jiuzhaigou town.

BLACK KITE, *Milvus migrans*

1 bird en route from Songpan to Jiuzhaigou.

LAMMERGEIER, *Gypaetus barbatus*

1 younger bird in adult-like plumage near km 88, Balan Shan.

HIMALAYAN GRIFFON, *Gyps himalayensis*

At least 2 older birds and 1 immature between the monument and Deng Shen village, Balan Shan. 1 bird Jiuzhaigou and 2 + 1 birds Gong Gan Ling.

NORTHERN GOSHAWK, *Accipiter gentiles*

1 bird Jiuzhaigou.

EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK, *Accipiter nisus*

2-3 birds Wolong.

COMMON BUZZARD, *Buteo buteo*

2-3 birds thought to be of race *japonicus* in Jiuzhaigou.

UPLAND BUZZARD, *Buteo hemilasius*

1 above 3000 m and 2 birds further down, Balan Shan. 3 birds at the stop below the roadmender's hut, Gong Gan Ling.

GOLDEN EAGLE, *Aquila chrysaetos*

1-2 at 3000 m, Balan Shan and 1-2 birds in Jiuzhaigou.

MOUNTAIN HAWK-EAGLE, *Spizaetus nipalensis*

At least 1 bird, Wuyipung, Wolong.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER, *Pluvialis dubius*

1 at the Summer Palace in Beijing and 1 at the Du Fu's Thatched Cottage Park, Chengdu.

COMMON SANDPIPER, *Actitis hypoleucos*

1-2 birds at the Summer Palace in Beijing.

COMMON TERN, *Sterna hirundo*

Race *longipennis*. 2 at the Summer Palace in Beijing.

ROCK DOVE, *Columba livia*

Around towns and settlements. 1 near the monument, Balan Shan.

SPECKLED WOOD-PIGEON, *Columba hodgsonii*

3 birds Xixiang, Emei Shan and at least 2 birds Wuyipung, Wolong.

SPOTTED DOVE, *Streptopelia chinensis*

A few at the Summer Palace in Beijing. 5+ at the Du Fu's Thatched Cottage Park

RED TURTLE DOVE, *Streptopelia tranquebarica*

A male near the trailhead to Wuyipung, Wolong and a female below roadmender's hut, Gong Gan Ling.

WEDGE-TAILED GREEN PIGEON, *Treron sphenura*

At least 25 coming in to roost around Xixiang and a few sightings further down to Xiang Feng, Emei Shan.

LARGE HAWK-CUCKOO, *Hierococcyx sparveroides*

A few seen and many heard in higher elevations at Emei Shan and in Wolong. A few Jiuzhaigou.

HODGSON'S HAWK-CUCKOO, *Hierococcyx fugax*

1 bird taped in at Xiang Feng and another heard near Wannian, Emei Shan. 3 birds Wolong and 1 record Jiuzhaigou.

INDIAN CUCKOO, *Cuculus micropterus*

3 birds heard at the Summer Palace in Beijing.

COMMON CUCKOO, *Cuculus canorus*

1 at the Summer Palace in Beijing. Small numbers at Bao Guo, Emei Shan and along the road from Songpan to Gong Gan Ling. Also recorded at the Du Fu's Thatched Cottage Park in Chengdu.

ORIENTAL CUCKOO, *Cuculus saturatus*

Common higher up at Emei Shan and at Wolong. A few Jiuzhaigou.

LESSER CUCKOO, *Cuculus poliocephalus*

Common higher up including at the Golden Summit on Emei Shan and also in Wolong. Several heard Jiuzhaigou.

ASIAN KOEL, *Eudynamys scolopacea*

1 heard Bao Guo, Emei Shan.

COLLARED SCOPS OWL, *Otus bakkamoena*

1 calling at dawn Wannian, Emei Shan.

COLLARED OWLET, *Glaucidium brodiei*

1 seen near the Bao Guo monastery, Emei Shan.

ASIAN BARRED OWLET, *Glaucidium cuculoides*

1 calling at dusk Wannian, Emei Shan.

HIMALAYAN SWIFTLET, *Collocalia brevirostris*

Common around Bao Guo, Emei Shan. Also recorded in small numbers on the way from Jieyin Hall down to Wannian monastery.

WHITE-THROATED NEEDLETAIL, *Hirundapus caudacautus*,

1 below Jieyin hall, Emei Shan. 10-15 birds in Wolong and 4-6 in Jiuzhaigou.

COMMON SWIFT, *Apus apus*

Race *pekinensis* common in Beijing.

FORK-TAILED SWIFT, *Apus pacificus*

At least 30 in the colony before Xiang Feng, 8-10 Bao Guo, Emei Shan. A common sight in Wolong.

HOUSE SWIFT, *Apus affinis*

2 birds in Chengdu on the last day.

COMMON KINGFISHER, *Alcedo atthis*

1 at the Summer Palace in Beijing, 1 Reed lake, Jiuzhaigou and 1 at Du Fu's Thatched Cottage Park in Chengdu.

BAY WOODPECKER, *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*

1 male below Xiang Feng and 1 female near Bao Guo, Emei Shan.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER, *Dendrocopos major*

1 male at the Summer Palace and 3 birds around the Forbidden city, Beijing. 1 bird at the entrance, Jiuzhaigou.

WHITE-BACKED WOODPECKER, *Dendrocopos leucotos*

A male feeding a young along trail C, 2-300 m from the research station, Wuyipung, Wolong

FULVOUS-BREASTED WOODPECKER, *Dendrocopos cathpharius*

1 bird below Jieyin hall, Emei Shan, was the only bird identified. A few possibles along the way down to Wannian monastery.

DARJEELING WOODPECKER, *Dendrocopos darjellensis*

1 male below Jieyin hall, Emei Shan. A pair around Xiang Feng.

GREY-CAPPED WOODPECKER, *Dendrocopos canicapillus*

2 + 1 birds at the Summer Palace in Beijing.

BLACK WOODPECKER, *Dryocopus martius*

2-3 birds heard in Jiuzhaigou.

GREY-HEADED WOODPECKER, *Picus canus*

1-2 birds at the Summer Palace in Beijing. A pair around Xiang Feng and also heard on several occasions further down on Emei Shan. Also recorded in Wolong and in Jiuzhaigou.

EURASIAN/ORIENTAL SKYLARK, *Alauda arvensis/gulgula*

An unidentified singing skylark at the stop before the pass, Gong Gan Ling.

WHITE WAGTAIL, *Motacilla alba*

Race *alboides* recorded in Bao Guo, Emei Shan, Wolong and Jiuzhaigou. Race *leucopsis* seen in Songpan.

GREY WAGTAIL, *Motacilla cinerea*

Fairly common, mainly around villages. Recorded at Emei Shan, Sawan in Wolong and in Jiuzhaigou.

RICHARD'S PIPIT, *Anthus richardi*

3 birds at the stop before the pass, Gong Gan Ling

ROSY PIPIT, *Anthus roseatus*

Fairly common on meadows above 3000 m, Balan Shan.

OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT, *Anthus hodgsoni*

3 birds near the monument, Balan Shan.

EURASIAN CRAG-MARTIN, *Hirundo rupestris*

Fairly common Jiuzhaigou and en route to Songpan.

BARN SWALLOW, *Hirundo rustica*

Recorded in Beijing, Chengdu and also seen frequently from the car in the lowlands.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW, *Hirundo daurica*

Common in Beijing, Chengdu and around Bao Guo, Emei Shan.

ASIAN MARTIN, *Delichon dasypus*

At least 10 in the Jieyin Hall area, 30+ in the colony before Xiang Feng and 3-4 below Xiang Feng, Emei Shan. Also recorded in Wolong and in Jiuzhaigou.

BROWN DIPPER, *Cinclus pallasii*

1 bird in a stream near Bao Guo on Emei Shan.

WHITE-THROATED DIPPER, *Cinclus cinclus*

A single observation at Pearl Shoals, Jiuzhaigou.

WINTER WREN, *Troglodytes troglodytes*

A total of 8-10 birds recorded at the Golden Summit, Emei Shan and in Jiuzhaigou.

RUFIOUS-BREASTED ACCENTOR, *Prunella strophiatea*

4-5 at the Golden Summit and another 2-3 birds on the way down to Jieyin hall, Emei Shan.

MAROON-BACKED ACCENTOR, *Prunella immaculata*

A total of 7 birds in the Primeval forest and along the Kezegou valley, Jiuzhaigou. 2 behind the roadmender's hut, Gong Gan Ling.

RUFIOUS-HEADED ROBIN, *Luscinia ruficeps*

On the second day in Jiuzhaigou, we located 4 singing males along the Kezegou valley. All were found in the area between the three dams. All birds were singing sporadically and were difficult to get more than brief views of. The farthest territory (from the main road) was located in a more open forest area and after some waiting the next day the male could be observed for a couple of minutes while foraging along fallen mossy trunks.

FIRETHROAT, *Luscinia pectardens*

At least 2 males sang on the trail up to Wuyipung and two more territories were located along the main trail to the research station. The stretch between milestone Km 80 down to Deng Shen village held at least 5 singing males of which 1 was briefly seen after some climbing efforts. A total of at least 9 singing males in Wolong were well beyond our expectations, but we had to go through a lot of frustration before we finally had great views of a male along the trail up to Wuyipung. All except perhaps one bird were singing from bamboo thickets.

INDIAN BLUE ROBIN, *Luscinia brunnea*

1 male seen and 10+ singing in Wolong. Fairly common also in Jiuzhaigou.

SIBERIAN RUBYTHROAT, *Luscinia calliope*

At least 3 males singing in the scrub just before the pass, Gong Gang Ling.

ORANGE-FLANKED BUSH-ROBIN, *Tarsiger cyanurus*

5-6 sightings and 5+ singing birds in Jiuzhaigou.

GOLDEN BUSH-ROBIN, *Tarsiger chrysaeus*

A presumably 2nd year male (only faint black mask) responded to tape at the Golden Summit near the monorail station and a pair was seen further down on the way back to Jieyin Hall, Emei Shan. 1 male singing near the end of trail B, Wuyipung, Wolong.

WHITE-BROWED BUSH-ROBIN, *Tarsiger indicus*

Nice views of a female on the trail up to Wuyipung and later FE had short views of a male on trail C, Wuyipung, Wolong.

ORIENTAL MAGPIE-ROBIN, *Copsychus saularis*

Recorded near Bao Guo, Emei Shan and at Du Fu's Thatched Cottage Park in Chengdu

WHITE-THROATED REDSTART, *Phoenicurus schisticeps*

We had given up on this species when we spotted a female behind the roadmender's hut, Gong Gang Ling, on the way back to Songpan.

DAURIAN REDSTART, *Phoenicurus aureoreus*

2-3 males Sawan, Wolong.

HODGSON'S REDSTART *Phoenicurus hodgsoni*

2 males and a female at the stop before the pass, Gong Gan Ling. A pair by the entrance and a female near the hotel, Jiuzhaigou.

BLUE-FRONTED REDSTART, *Phoenicurus frontalis*

Fairly common along the way down from Balan Shan back to Wolong. A male Gong Gan Ling.

WHITE-CAPPED RIVERCHAT, *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*

Common along rivers and streams throughout including above 3000 m at the Balan Shan Pass.

PLUMBEOUS REDSTART, *Rhyacornis fuliginosus*

Very common along rivers and streams throughout.

WHITE-BELLIED REDSTART, *Hodgsonius phaenicuroides*

At least 10 singing males from Jieyin Hall down to Wannian monastery at Emei Shan. 4-6 individuals in both Wolong and in Jiuzhaigou. 1 male Gong Gan Ling. Generally shy, but at times possible to get decent views of.

WHITE-CROWNED FORKTAIL, *Enicurus leschenaulti*

1 adult bird and a juvenile around Bao Guo, Emei Shan.

SPOTTED FORKTAIL, *Enicurus maculatus*

A pair with a young at a stream 2 km before Xiang Feng, Emei Shan.

SLATY-BACKED FORKTAIL, *Enicurus schistaceus*

2 adult birds and a juvenile near Bao Guo, Emei Shan.

GRANDALA, *Grandala coelicolor*

A female Balan Shan.

COMMON STONECHAT, *Saxicola torquata*

Several between Songpan and Gong Gan Ling.

BLUE ROCK-THRUSH, *Monticola solitarius*

15+ en route between Songpan and Chengdu.

BLUE WHISTLING-THRUSH, *Myiophonus caeruleus*

Common in lower elevations on Emei Shan and at Wolong. Not recorded north of Songpan.

SCALY THRUSH, *Zoothera dauma*

1 bird with a young at Pearl Shoales, Jiuzhaigou.

LONG-TAILED THRUSH, *Zoothera dixonii*

1 singing bird and later a very tame individual on the main trail to the research station, Wuyipung, Wolong. 1 adult and a young at the Primeval forest, Jiuzhaigou.

PLAIN-BACKED THRUSH, *Zoothera mollissima*

1 flushed in the forest behind the roadmender's hut, Gong Gan Ling

EURASIAN BLACKBIRD, *Turdus merula*

Several (with a very strange song) at Du Fu's Thatched Cottage Park at Chengdu.

GREY-WINGED BLACKBIRD, *Turdus boulboul*

1 bird on a side trail near the Xiang Feng monastery, Emei Shan, was the only record.

CHINESE THRUSH, *Turdus mupinensis*

1 just above Deng Shen village, Wolong. 4-5 birds Jiuzhaigou.

CHESTNUT THRUSH, *Turdus rubrocanus*

2 + 1 birds at the Golden Summit, Emei Shan. Fairly common from the monument and below, Balan Shan. Common in Jiuzhaigou.

KESSLER'S THRUSH, *Turdus kessleri*

2 birds above 3000 m, Balan Shan. 6-7 birds between Songpan and Gong Gan Ling. 2 birds at the stop just before the pass, Gong Gan Ling.

PLAIN PRINIA, *Prinia inornata*

A singing bird at Du Fu's Thatched Cottage Park in Chengdu.

CHESTNUT-HEADED TESIA, *Tesia castaneocoronata*

1 above Jieyin hall and 2 birds on the way down to Xixiang on Emei Shan. 2 birds Wuyipung and 2 near km 80, Wolong. 1 bird Kezeguo vally, Jiuzhaigou.

BROWNISH-FLANKED BUSH-WARBLER, *Cettia fortipes*

1 seen and heard displaying Xixiang, 3-4 heard Xiang Feng-Wannian, Emei Shan.

CHESTNUT-CROWNED BUSH-WARBLER, *Cettia major*

1 seen and another heard singing on the Golden summit, Emei Shan. 1 singing near the monument, Balan Shan.

ABERRANT BUSH-WARBLER, *Cettia flavolivacea*

1 seen and several heard above and below Jieyin Hall, Emei Shan. Scarcer further down the mountain. Common in Wolong.

YELLOWISH-BELLIED BUSH-WARBLER, *Cettia acanthizoides*

1 singing bird below Jieyin Hall. 2 birds below the monument Balan Shan. In Wuyipung, Wolong, 1 bird on the trail up and 1 bird on the trail starting behind the research station. 2-3 birds in Jiuzhaigou.

SPOTTED BUSH-WARBLER, *Bradypterus thoracicus*

2 different taxa were observed. 1 bird taped in below the Golden Summit had a short rhythmic phrase while 2 birds seen along the Kezegou valley, Jiuzhaigou, had a buzzing cicada-like song.

BLACK-BROWED REED-WARBLER, *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*

2-3 at the Summer Palace in Beijing.

ORIENTAL REED-WARBLER, *Acrocephalus orientalis*

8-10 at the Summer Palace in Beijing.

CRESTED TIT-WARBLER, *Leptopoecile elegans*

A male in a bird wave and later a female at Gong Gan Ling in the forest behind the roadmender's hut.

DUSKY WARBLER, *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

1 at the Summer Palace in Beijing, 1 above Jieyin hall, Emei Shan (possibly the same bird later found dead) and 4-5 Gong Gan Ling.

TICKELL'S LEAF-WARBLER, *Phylloscopus affinis*

1 above 3000 m Balan Shan. 4-5 birds at the stop before the pass, Gong Gan Ling.

BUFF-THROATED WARBLER, *Phylloscopus subaffinis*

1 Xixiang, Emei Shan. Common Sawan, Wolong, and on the way to Balan Shan. Also recorded in the Gong Gan Ling area.

YELLOW-STREAKED WARBLER, *Phylloscopus armandii*

2-3 birds Sawan, Wolong. 1-2 birds between the monument and Deng Shen village, Balan Shan. At least 10 birds at Jiuzhaigou.

BUFF-BARRED WARBLER, *Phylloscopus pulcher*

Common in higher altitudes on Emei Shan, common Wolong and Jiuzhaigou.

LEMON-RUMPED WARBLER, *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Abundant higher up on Emei Shan and common Wolong. Also recorded from Jiuzhaigou.

CHINESE LEAF-WARBLER, *Phylloscopus sichuanensis*

2 birds Sawan, Wolong and a total of 15+ birds in Jiuzhaigou. 1 below roadmender's hut, Gong Gan Ling.

GREENISH WARBLER, *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

Race *plumbeitarsus*. Not uncommon higher up on Emei Shan and in Jiuzhaigou. Also recorded in Wolong.

HUME'S WARBLER, *Phylloscopus humei*

Recorded in small numbers in Kezegou gully near the main road and along the boardwalk south to Zechawa village, Jiuzhaigou. Possibly overlooked elsewhere.

LARGE-BILLED LEAF-WARBLER, *Phylloscopus magnirostris*

Common in most places visited.

ARCTIC WARBLER, *Phylloscopus borealis*

1 calling bird seen near Bao Guo, Emei Shan. 1 bird singing briefly at the Summer Palace, Beijing, was probably this species.

SULPHUR-BREASTED WARBLER, *Phylloscopus ricketti*

3-4 individuals seen in the canopy before reaching Wannian monastery, Emei Shan.

BLYTH'S LEAF-WARBLER, *Phylloscopus reguloides*

The most abundant *Phylloscopus* recorded everywhere on Emei Shan, in Wolong and in Jiuzhaigou.

EMEI WARBLER, *Phylloscopus emeiensis*

A total of 6 singing birds, 1 above and 5 below Xiang Feng monastery, were likely to be this species. Unfortunately all were out of reach from the trail and none were seen. All birds appeared to be on territory displaying a clearly deviating song recalling that of the Arctic warbler.

GOLDEN-SPECTACLED WARBLER, *Seicercus burkii*

Because of lacking experience and time invested in the matter, we never fully sorted out the different *Seicercus*-taxa suggested to occur in Sichuan. Taxon *valentini* (Bianchi's warbler) was common from the summit down to Xixiang, Emei Shan. Birds with *valentini* song were not uncommon in Jiuzhaigou. Further down on Emei Shan, birds with a different song (with a trill-finish), probably taxon *tephrocephalus* (Gray-crowned warbler) were fairly common. Birds with similar song were also recorded in Wolong. We were never able to identify taxon *soror* (Plain-tailed warbler). Fairly confusing and a task for the next trip...

CHESTNUT-CROWNED WARBLER, *Seicercus castaniceps*

A less complicated *Seicercus* which was fairly common between Xiang Feng and Wannian, Emei Shan.

RUFOUS-FACED WARBLER, *Abroscopus albogularis*

2 singing males in the bamboo around Bao Guo, Emei Shan.

GOLDCREST, *Regulus regulus*

Several on the Golden Summit, Emei Shan. Common in the Primeval forest, Jiuzhaigou and in the forest behind the roadmender's hut, Gong Gan Ling.

GREY-HEADED CANARY-FLYCATCHER, *Culicicapa ceylonensis*,

1-2 near Fuhu Si monastery, 1 near Xiang Feng and 5-6 singing near Wannian, Emei Shan. A few birds also recorded in Wolong, Jiuzhaigou and Gong Gan Ling.

DARK-SIDED FLYCATCHER, *Muscicapa sibirica*

1 + 2 birds between Xixiang and Xiang Feng, 1 between Xiang Feng and Wannian, Emei Shan. 2-3 birds Sawan, Wolong. 4-5 birds in Jiuzhaigou.

BROWN-BREASTED FLYCATCHER, *Muscicapa muttui*

1-2 birds, including a singing male near Fuhu Si monastery, Emei Shan.

FERRUGINOUS FLYCATCHER, *Muscicapa ferruginea*

A pair below Jieyin hall, Emei Shan.

SLATY-BACKED FLYCATCHER, *Ficedula hodgsonii*

Common in Wolong and very common in Jiuzhaigou.

SLATY BLUE FLYCATCHER, *Ficedula tricolour*

Fairly common on Emei Shan. Also recorded in small numbers in Wolong and in Jiuzhaigou.

RUFOUS-GORGETED FLYCATCHER, *Ficedula strophciata*

Fairly common higher up on Emei Shan and also a few recorded in Wuyipung, Wolong.

VERDITER FLYCATCHER, *Eumyias thalassina*

3 around Jieyin Hall and 1 Xixiang on Emei Shan.

BLUE-THROATED FLYCATCHER, *Cyornis rubeculoides*

Common between Xiang Feng and Wannian monestarys on Emei Shan. Taxon *glaucicomans* with rufous underparts extended to the throat.

VIVID NILTAVA, *Niltava vivida*

A pair seen well and another 2-3 singing birds around Xiang Feng, Emei Shan.

BLACK-THROATED TIT, *Aegithalos concinnus*

2 birds Wannian monastery. 30-40 birds in a wave near Bao Guo, Emei Shan. Black-browed tit, *A. iouschistos* was possibly overlooked here. At least 40 together in a wave at Du Fu's Thatched Cottage Park in Chengdu.

SOOTY TIT, *Aegithalos concinnus*

1 Wuyipung, Wolong. A total of at least 15 birds on three occasions in Jiuzhaigou.

WHITE-BROWED TIT, *Parus superciliosus*

1 bird in the scrub carrying food at the stop before the pass, Gong Gan Ling.

WILLOW TIT, *Parus montanus*

Race *Songarus* recorded below roadmender's hut, Gong Gan Ling.

PÈRE DAVID'S TIT, *Parus davidi*

Not uncommon in Jiuzhaigou.

RUFOUS-VENTED TIT, *Parus rubidiventris*

2 below the Golden Summit on Emei Shan and 1 in Jiuzhaigou.

COAL TIT, *Parus ater*

Crested race recorded in few numbers above Jieyin Hall at Emei Shan and at Jiuzhaigou.

YELLOW-BELLIED TIT, *Parus venustus*

Fairly common in lower altitudes on Emei Shan. 4-5 birds Wuyipung, Wolong and 5-6 birds Jiuzhaigou.

GREY-CRESTED TIT, *Parus dichrous*

Fairly common and recorded in higher elevations on Emei Shan, in Wolong, behind the roadmender's hut Gong Gan Ling and in Jiuzhaigou.

GREAT TIT, *Parus major*

An entirely grey race seen a few times by Bao Guo, Emei Shan, in Jiuzhaigou and in Chengdu.

GREEN-BACKED TIT, *Parus monticolus*

The most common *Parus*, seen on Emei Shan, in Wolong and in Jiuzhaigou.

YELLOW-BROWED TIT, *Sylviparus modestus*

2-4 birds above Jieyin Hall, 2 Xiang Feng on Emei Shan. 2 birds Wuyipung, Wolong.

FIRE-CAPPED TIT, *Cephalopyrus flammiceps*

1 male and possibly a female provided brief views in the canopy in front of the research station Wuyipung, Wolong.

PERE DAVID'S LAUGHINGTHRUSH, *Garrulax davidi*

1 at the stop before the pass, Gong Gan Ling, was surprisingly the only record.

GIANT LAUGHINGTHRUSH, *Garrulax maximus*

1 bird seen and more heard in the scrub above the monument, Balan Shan, Wolong.

HWAMEI, *Garrulax canorus*

2-3 birds at Bao Guo, Emei Shan.

WHITE-BROWED LAUGHINGTHRUSH, *Garrulax sannio*

3-4 birds Bao Guo, Emei Shan. Common at Du Fu's Thatched Cottage Park in Chengdu.

ELLIOT'S LAUGHINGTHRUSH, *Garrulax elliotii*

The only *Garrulax* seen in greater numbers. Common between Jieyin hall and Wannian, Emei Shan, in Wolong (including above 3000 m near Balan Shan), in the Gong Gan Ling area and in Jiuzhaigou.

SPOTTED LAUGHINGTHRUSH, *Garrulax ocellatus*

2 birds crossing the trail between Xixiang and Xiang Feng, Emei Shan.

BLACK-FACED LAUGHINGTHRUSH, *Garrulax affinis*

2 above Jieyin Hall, Emei Shan and 1 together with Elliot's laughingthrushes near the end of trail B, Wuyipung, Wolong.

STREAK-BREASTED SCIMITAR-BABBLER, *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*

1-2 birds Bao Guo, 3 birds above and 2 birds below Xiang Feng, Emei Shan. 1 bird at Du Fu's Thatched Cottage Park in Chengdu.

EMEI SHAN LIOCICHLA, *Liocichla omeiensis*

1 singing bird below Jieyin Hall, 1 taped in and eventually seen half-way down to Xixiang and 3 singing and 1 seen above Xiang Feng, Emei Shan. Not shy, but hard to get good views of. Keeps to understory 2-3 m above ground.

CHINESE BABAX, *Babax lanceolatus*

A single observation of one bird just above Deng Shen village, Wolong.

RED-BILLED LEIOTHRIX, *Leiothrix lutea*

Common in higher altitudes on Emei Shan.

RUFOUS-CAPPED BABBLER, *Stachyris ruficeps*

Several singing, a few seen around Bao Guo, 5-10 birds below Xiang Feng, Emei Shan.

GOLDEN-BREASTED FULVETTA, *Alcippe chrysotis*

A group of 2-4 birds, Emei Shan. At least 2 birds Wuyipung, Wolong.

STREAK-THROATED FULVETTA, *Alcippe cinereiceps*

A few below Xiang Feng and along pipeline trail behind the Wannian monastery, Emei Shan.

DUSKY FULVETTA, *Alcippe brunnea*

3-4 birds along the pipeline trail, Wannian, Emei Shan.

GREY-CHEEKED FULVETTA, *Alcippe morrisonia*

5+ above Jieyin Hall, 1 near Xixiang on Emei Shan.

WHITE-COLLARED YUHINA, *Yuhina diademata*

15+ between Golden Summit and Jieyin Hall, Emei Shan at Wolong.

BLACK-CHINNED YUHINA, *Yuhina nigrimenta*

1 Xiang Feng, 3 + 2 birds further down below Xiang Feng, Emei Shan.

PYGMY WREN-BABBLER, *Pnoepyga pusilla*

1 Xixiang, 1 near a stream 2 km before Xiang Feng, 1 Xiang Feng, Emei Shan. 1 singing along the trail up to Wuyipung. 1 singing Kezegou valley, Jiuzhaigou.

SCALY-BREASTED WREN-BABBLER, *Pnoepyga albiventer*

1 bird above and 1 bird taped in and seen well just below Jieyin hall, Emei Shan. 1 bird below the research station and 2 more on trail B, Wuyipung, Wolong

GREAT PARROTBILL, *Conostoma oemodium*

A pair with three young in the bamboo on trail C and later a pair near the main trail, Wuyipung, Wolong.

THREE-TOED PARROTBILL, *Paradoxornis paradoxus*

1 observation of a very co-operative bird along trail C in Wuyipung, Wolong.

VINOUS-THROATED PARROTBILL, *Paradoxornis webbianus*

Common at Du Fu's Thatched Cottage Park in Chengdu.

ASHY-THROATED PARROTBILL, *Paradoxornis alphonsianus*

2-3 near Wannian monastery and up to 5 birds on two occasions near Bao Guo, Emei Shan.

EURASIAN NUTHATCH, *Sitta europaea*

A few seen at Jiuzhaigou. 1 bird Wuyipung, Wolong. 2 birds near Xixiang, Emei Shan. Another bird seen in this area was possibly a chestnut-vented nuthatch *Sitta nagaensis*.

CHINESE NUTHATCH, *Sitta villosa*

A family of at least 2 adults and 2 young were seen in a birdwave on the southern slopes of Jiuzhaigou town.

WALLCREEPER, *Tichodroma muraria*

One bird at a road-jam stop on the way north to Songpan.

EURASIAN TREECREEPER, *Certhia familiaris*

2-3 birds Wuyipung, Wolong and 5-6 in Jiuzhaigou.

BAR-TAILED TREECREEPER, *Certhia himalayana*

At least 2 birds a few hundred meters above the dams, Kezegou valley, Jiuzhaigou.

TIGER SHRIKE, *Lanius tigrinus*

1 bird Du Fu's Thatched Cottage Park.

BROWN SHRIKE, *Lanius cristatus*

1 bird of race *lucionensis* Gong Gan Ling.

LONG-TAILED SHRIKE, *Lanius schach*

7-8 en route from Chengdu to Emei Shan. 1 at the Du Fu's Thatched Cottage Park.

GREY-BACKED SHRIKE, *Lanius tephronotus*

3-4 birds Wolong, 2 birds Gong Gan Ling, fairly common Jiuzhaigou.

BLACK DRONGO, *Dicrurus macrocercus*

2 at the Summer Palace, Beijing. 1 + 2 birds along the road from Songpan to Gong Gan Ling.

SPANGLED DRONGO, *Dicrurus hottentotus*

2-3 birds Bao Guo, 1 bird Wannian monastery, Emei Shan.

ASIAN PARADISE FLYCATCHER, *Terpsiphone paradise*

1 female seen near Bao Guo, Emei Shan.

EURASIAN JAY, *Garrulus glandarius*

Several sightings between Xixiang down to Bao Guo on Emei Shan, also recorded in Wolong and in Jiuzhaigou.

RED-BILLED BLUE MAGPIE, *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*

2 near the Forbidden city, Beijing. At least 5 birds between Xixiang and Wannian, Emei Shan. 5+ around Wolong.

AZURE-WINGED MAGPIE, *Cyanopica cyana*

15-20 birds near the southern entrance at the Summer Palace. Small numbers also recorded elsewhere in Beijing.

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE, *Pica pica*

Small numbers at the Summer Palace and around Beijing.

EURASIAN NUTCRAKER, *Nucifraga caryocatactes*

Common around Wuyipung, Wolong.

ALPINE CHOUGH, *Pyrrhocorax graculus*

2 birds greeting us at the top of the Balan Shan Pass. A distant flock of crows seen from the car near Gong Gan Ling was most likely Red-billed choughs, *P. pyrrhocorax*.

LARGE-BILLED CROW, *Corvus macrorhynchos*

Recorded in small numbers at most places visited. Several crows seen from the car between Songpan and Jiuzhaigou were probably Carrion crows, *Corvus corone orientalis*.

LONG-TAILED MINIVET, *Pericrocotus ethologus*

Fairly common in Wolong, Jiuzhaigou and at higher elevations on Emei Shan.

WHITE-CHEEKED STARLING, *Sturnus cineraceus*

4 + 4 birds at the Summer Palace.

CRESTED MYNA, *Acridotheres cristatellus*

1 at Du Fu's Thatched Cottage Park in Chengdu and 2 at the Summer Palace. Probably introduced in Beijing.

COLLARED FINCHBILL, *Spizixos semitorques*

Up to 5 birds at Bao Guo, Emei Shan. Also seen in Wolong.

LIGHT-VENTED BULBUL, *Pycnonotus sinensis*

Several around Bao Guo, Emei Shan and a common bird in Chengdu.

BLACK BULBUL, *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*

Race *leucothorax*. Small numbers around Bao Guo, Emei Shan. At least 15 birds below Xiang Feng.

CHESTNUT-FLANKED WHITE-EYE, *Zosterops erythropleurus*

4-5 birds at Bao Guo, Emei Shan. 2-3 birds Jiuzhaigou.

JAPANESE WHITE-EYE, *Zosterops japonicus*

4-5 birds around Bao Guo, 3-4 Wannian, Emei Shan.

FIRE-BREASTED FLOWERPECKER, *Prionochilus ignipectus*

A male and a pair on two different dates at Bao Guo, Emei Shan.

MRS GOULD'S SUNBIRD, *Aethopyga gouldiae*

A male below Jieyin Hall and another above Xiang Feng, Emei Shan. A few around Wuyipung and above Deng Shen village in Wolong.

FORK-TAILED SUNBIRD, *Aethopyga christinae*

At least one pair seen on different dates around Bao Guo, Emei Shan.

STRIATED MUNIA, *Lonchura striata*

A 10+ party around Bao Guo, Emei Shan. 8-10 together at the Du Fu Thatched Cottage, Chengdu.

RUSSET SPARROW, *Passer rutilans*.

A pair outside the hotel in Songpan was surprisingly the only record.

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW, *Passer montanus*

A common and widespread species.

TIBETAN SISKIN, *Carduelis thibetanus*

1 bird near km 80, Balan Shan, Wolong. 1 female and a group of 7 birds in the Primeval forest, Jiuzhaigou.

GREY-CAPPED GREENFINCH, *Carduelis sinica*

1-2 at Du Fu's Thatched Cottage Park in Chengdu.

COMMON ROSEFINCH, *Carpodacus erythrinus*

1 female Bao Guo, Emei Shan. 4-5 birds at the stop before the pass, Gong Gan Ling.

BEAUTIFUL ROSEFINCH, *Carpodacus pulcherrimus*

Very common around the Gong Gan Ling area. Also recorded at higher elevations, Balan Shan, Wolong.

VINACEOUS ROSEFINCH, *Carpodacus vinaceus*

A pair on the Golden Summit and another pair Jieyin Hall, Emei Shan. 3-4 birds in Wolong and at least 1 pair Kezegou valley, Jiuzhaigou.

DARK-BREASTED ROSEFINCH, *Carpodacus nipalensis*

Fairly common from the monument and above to 3000 m, Balan Shan.

THREE-BANDED ROSEFINCH, *Carpodacus trifasciatus*

A pair in the Primeval forest in Jiuzhaigou.

WHITE-BROWED ROSEFINCH, *Carpodacus thura*

1 on the summit of Emei Shan. 3-4 in Jiuzhaigou. 1 female near the monument, Balan Shan. Several behind the roadmender's hut, Gong Gan Ling.

GREY-HEADED BULLFINCH, *Pyrrhula erythaca*

2 + 2 birds above Jieyin Hall, Emei Shan, a few in Wolong, fairly common in Jiuzhaigou.

YELLOW-BILLED GROSBEAK, *Eophona migratoria*

3-4 birds at the Du Fu Thatched Cottage in Chengdu.

COLLARED GROSBEAK, *Mycerobas affinis*

A pair and later a female at km 80, Balan Shan, Wolong.

WHITE-WINGED GROSBEAK, *Mycerobas carnipes*

Fairly common in Jiuzhaigou, although only 4-5 birds seen well enough for certain identification. A female behind the roadmender's hut, Gong Gan Ling.

GODLEWSKI'S BUNTING, *Emberiza godlewski*

2-3 birds along the road from Songpan to Gong Gan Ling. 1 bird seen on a slope behind Jiuzhaigou town.