

# Emei Shan, Sichuan, China

6 March 2005

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## General

This was a quick one-day visit and therefore I only covered the lower elevations near town. My main purpose was to look for the seldom-seen Streaked Barwing, which did not succeed. Nevertheless it was a nice day of birding with a number of good flocks moving through. The song activity had not really picked up at this time of the year. Highlights were a large flock of Golden Parrotbills, a few Slaty Buntings, some Red-winged Laughingthrushes and Emei Shan Liocichlas.

## Itinerary

From Chengdu airport I arranged a car through the travel service desk. The normal taxi price is 350 RMB between Chengdu and Emei, but this was a late Saturday evening so I ended up paying 400 RMB. I stayed at Emei Shan (Grand) Hotel, which I have used before and they offered a room for 252 RMB. This hotel is good and conveniently close to the lower part of the forest near Baoguo Temple.

I birded the area around Fuhu Temple and walked up to between Chunyang and Shenshui, where the habitat started to get too degraded so I returned towards Fuhu. In the afternoon I walked to Hongzhushan, although that area nowadays is very much destroyed by new buildings. Instead I finished the afternoon at Luofeng Nunnery.

By 16.30 I returned to Chengdu by taxi. The drive is around two hours and most of it is on a very quick express road.

## Weather

The weather was dry and with an almost completely clear sky. Temperatures were probably around 10 in the morning and then climbed to around 15-18. At one point I could see the Golden Summit and there was a fair amount of snow there and probably several minus degrees.

## Birds

- Chinese Bamboo-Partridge, *Bambusicola thoracica thoracica*  
About three pairs heard.
- Collared Owlet, *Glaucidium brodiei brodiei*  
One heard near Leiyin Temple.
- Asian Barred Owlet, *Glaucidium cuculoides whitelyi*  
Two heard at Fuhu Temple.
- Speckled Piculet, *Picumnus innominatus chinensis*  
One or two near Leiyin Temple.
- Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica ssp*  
A few between Emei and Chengdu.
- Collared Finchbill, *Spizixos semitorques semitorques*  
15 around Fuhu Temple.
- Light-vented Bulbul, *Pycnonotus sinensis sinensis*  
One near Baoguo Temple.
- Black Bulbul, *Hypsipetes leucocephalus leucothrorax*  
Six at Emei Shan Hotel.
- Winter Wren, *Troglodytes troglodytes szetschuanus*  
One heard near Chunyang Palace.
- Blue Whistling-Thrush, *Myophonus caeruleus caeruleus*  
One at Luofeng Nunnery.
- Chestnut Thrush, *Turdus rubrocanus gouldi*  
Two near Chunyang Palace.
- Chestnut-headed Tesia, *Tesia castaneocoronata castaneocoronata*  
One near Leiyin Temple and one at Luofeng Nunnery.
- Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler, *Cettia fortipes davidiana*  
A couple of short song-bursts heard of this species. About five unidentified *Cettia* warblers were seen, perhaps a few being Yellowish-bellied.
- Buff-barred Warbler, *Phylloscopus pulcher pulcher*  
One near Fuhu Temple.
- Ashy-throated Warbler, *Phylloscopus maculipennis maculipennis*  
A few around Hongzhushan.
- Sichuan Leaf-Warbler, *Phylloscopus forresti*  
At least a couple of birds looked like this species at Fuhu Temple.
- Pallas's Leaf-Warbler, *Phylloscopus proregulus*  
10+, mostly around Fuhu Temple.
- Seicercus sp*  
One seen at a distance near Fuhu Temple.
- Chestnut-crowned Warbler, *Seicercus castaniceps sinensis*  
About five near Fuhu Temple.
- Rufous-faced Warbler, *Abroscopus albogularis fulvifacies*  
3-4 near Fuhu Temple.
- Fujian Niltava, *Niltava davidi*  
One male near Luofeng Nunnery.

Plumbeous Water-Redstart, *Rhyacornis fuliginosus fuliginosus*  
Two near Fuhu Temple.

White-tailed Robin, *Cinclidium leucurum leucurum*  
Two heard near Chunyang Palace and two seen near Lei Yin Temple.

White-crowned Forktail, *Enicurus leschenaultia sinensis*  
About five scattered individuals.

Hwamei, *Garrulax canorus canorus*  
About five near Fuhu Temple.

Elliot's Laughingthrush, *Garrulax elliotii elliotii*  
Two near Chunyang Palace and three near Fuhu Temple.

Red-winged Laughingthrush, *Garrulax formosus formosus*  
Two near Lei Yin Temple and two near Fuhu Temple.

Omei Shan Liocichla, *Liocichla omeiensis*  
Two plus two at Lei Yin Temple, one near Fuhu Temple and two Baoguo Temple.

Spot-breasted Scimitar-Babbler, *Pomatorhinus erythrocnemis decarlei*  
One plus one near Fuhu Temple.

Streak-breasted Scimitar-Babbler, *Pomatorhinus ruficollis eidos*  
10-20 seen in most areas.

Rufous-capped Babbler, *Stachyris ruficeps davidi*  
A total of about 20.

Red-billed Leiothrix, *Leiothrix lutea lutea*  
Common.

Blue-winged Minla, *Minla cyanouroptera wingatei*  
Two near Fuhu Temple.

Red-tailed Minla, *Minla ignotincta jerdoni*  
A total of about 30.

Golden-breasted Fulvetta, *Alcippe chrysotis swinhoii*  
Two near Fuhu Temple.

Grey-cheeked Fulvetta, *Fulvetta morrisonia davidi*  
Common.

Striated Yuhina, *Yuhina castaniceps torqueola*  
Ten near Fuhu Temple.

White-collared Yuhina, *Yuhina diademata*  
Two near Chunyang Palace.

Grey-headed Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis gularis fokiensis*  
Five near Chunyang Palace.

Ashy-throated Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis alphonsianus alphonsianus*  
About ten near Fuhu Temple.

Golden Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis verreauxi verreauxi*  
One flock of about 50 birds encountered twice.

Black-throated Tit, *Aegithalos concinnus concinnus*  
A total of about ten.

Great Tit, *Parus major minor*  
A few around Fuhu Temple.

Green-backed Tit, *Parus monticolus yunnanensis*  
About 10 near Fuhu Temple.

Yellow-browed Tit, *Sylviparus modestus modestus*  
A total of about 15.

Long-tailed Shrike, *Lanius schach schach*  
One between Emei and Chengdu.

Eurasian Jay, *Garrulus glandarius sinensis*  
Two near Chunyang Palace.

Red-billed Blue Magpie, *Urocissa erythrorhyncha erythrorhyncha*  
About five near Chunyang Palace.

White-rumped Munia, *Lonchura striata swinhoei*  
One near Baoguo Temple.

Vinaceous Rosefinch, *Carpodacus vinaceus vinaceus*  
Two females at Chunyang Palace and Fuhu Temple.

Oriental Greenfinch, *Carduelis sinica sinica*  
A few at Hongzhushan.

Slaty Bunting, *Latoucheornis siemsseni*  
One female and one male respectively between Chunyang Palace and Shenshui Pavilion.

Tristram's Bunting, *Emberiza tristrami*  
Three near Fuhu Temple.

Yellow-throated Bunting, *Emberiza elegans ssp*  
Two near Chunyang Palace.