

Chengdu and Emeishan, Sichuan, China

25-28 March 2005

Björn Anderson

General

A brief and touristy family visit to Chengdu with surroundings. We visited Dujiangyan irrigation site northwest of Chengdu, the Panda Base and Du Fu cottage in Chengdu as well as a trip south of town to the Giant Buddha in Leshan and a half day visit to the Golden Summit on Emeishan. I did not do any real birding, so the species list is the result of very opportunistic birding.

Itinerary

25/3

Arrived Chengdu from south China and met up with my family and parents visiting from Sweden.

26/3

All morning was spent at the world heritage site at the Dujiangyan water irrigation system. I had expected some more migrants at this time of the year, but birds were thin on the ground. Best was a pair of Long-billed Plovers in the riverbed. After lunch we drove south to Leshan for a couple of hours at the Giant Buddha. In the evening we arrived at Emei village. Had dinner in the evening and bumped into a birding friend.

27/3

The weather looked good so we took the bus up to the Golden Summit. However, when getting closer, the clouds moved in and by the time we reached Jieyin Hall it was all covered in thick mist (as usual). We walked along the road to the cable car. There was a lot of snow and only a few degrees above freezing point. Very birdless. We took the cable car to the top and spent some time looking into the mist, before having lunch and started the reverse trip down the mountain. In the afternoon we drove back to Chengdu.

28/3

Today we visited two sites, first the Panda Base just north of town and later Du Fu cottage in the afternoon. Evening flight back to Beijing.

Birds

- Great Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*
One at Leshan.
- Grey Heron, *Ardea cinerea jouyi*
A few at the Panda Base, Chengdu.
- Little Egret, *Egretta garzetta garzetta*
Two at Dujiangyan and 100+ nests at the Panda Base, Chengdu.
- Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus ibis coromandus*
40 at Leshan.
- Black-crowned Night-Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax*
100+ nests at the Panda Base, Chengdu.
- Eurasian Teal, *Anas crecca crecca*
50+ at the Panda Base, Chengdu.
- Eurasian Buzzard, *Buteo buteo japonicus*
Two at the Panda Base, Chengdu.
- Long-billed Plover, *Charadrius placidus*
One pair at Dujiangyan.
- Oriental Turtle-Dove, *Streptopelia orientalis orientalis*
Several in the Red Basin.
- Spotted Dove, *Streptopelia chinensis chinensis*
A few around Chengdu.
- Himalayan Swiftlet, *Aerodramus brevirostris innominatus*
Two flying over Emei village 27/3. Seemed like an early date, or maybe not?
- Eurasian Hoopoe, *Upupa epops saturate*
Two at Dujiangyan.
- Darjeeling Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos darjellensis*
One pair at Jieyin Hall, Emeishan.
- Pale Martin, *Riparia diluta diluta*
Two at Leshan.
- Eurasian Crag-Martin, *Hirundo rupestris rupestris*
20 at Dujiangyan.
- Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica ssp*
Frequently seen.
- Red-rumped Swallow, *Hirundo daurica ssp*
A few at the Panda Base, Chengdu.
- Asian House Martin, *Delichon dasypus cashmiriensis*
20+ at Dujiangyan.
- White Wagtail, *Motacilla alba alboides*
Frequently seen.
- Grey Wagtail, *Motacilla cinerea melanope*
One at Emei village.
- Collared Finchbill, *Spizixos semitorques semitorques*
One at Dujiangyan.
- Light-vented Bulbul, *Pycnonotus sinensis sinensis*
Frequently seen.
- Black Bulbul, *Hypsipetes leucocephalus leucothrorax*
Three at Emei village.
- Brown Dipper, *Cinclus pallasii pallasii*
Two near Wannian at Emeishan.

Eurasian Blackbird, *Turdus merula sowerbyi*
 Three at Du Fu cottage in Chengdu.

Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler, *Cettia fortipes davidiana*
 One heard at the Panda Base, Chengdu.

Pallas's Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus proregulus*
 A few at the Panda Base, Chengdu.

Rufous-faced Warbler, *Abroscopus albogularis fulvifacies*
 Frequently heard at Dujiangyan, Leshan and Du Fu cottage in Chengdu.

Rufous-bellied Niltava, *Niltava sundara sundara*
 One male at Dujiangyan.

Red-flanked Bluetail, *Tarsiger cyanurus ssp*
 One female at Dujiangyan.

Oriental Magpie-Robin, *Copsychus saularis prosthopellus*
 Two at Dujiangyan.

White-capped Water-Redstart, *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*
 Two near Wannian, Emeishan.

Plumbeous Water-Redstart, *Rhyacornis fuliginosus fuliginosus*
 A few at Emeishan.

White-browed Laughingthrush, *Garrulax sannio oblectans*
 Common at the Panda Base and at Du Fu cottage in Chengdu.

Elliot's Laughingthrush, *Garrulax elliotii elliotii*
 One at Golden Summit, Emeishan.

Red-billed Leiothrix, *Leiothrix lutea lutea*
 Three at the Panda Base, Chengdu.

Streak-throated Fulvetta, *Alcippe cinereiceps cinereiceps*
 Two at Jieyin Hall, Emeishan.

Vinous-throated Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis webbianus suffusus*
 Five at the Panda Base, Chengdu.

Black-throated Tit, *Aegithalos concinnus concinnus*
 Frequently seen at Dujiangyan, Leshan and in Chengdu.

Grey-crested Tit, *Lophophanes dichrous wellsi*
 One near Jieyin Hall, Emeishan.

Great Tit, *Parus major ssp*
 Several seen at Dujiangyan, Leshan and Emeishan.

Green-backed Tit, *Parus monticulus yunannensis*
 Two at the Panda Base, Chengdu.

Long-tailed Shrike, *Lanius schach schach*
 Common in the Red Basin.

Crested Myna, *Acridotheres cristatellus cristatellus*
 A few around Chengdu.

Tree Sparrow, *Passer montanus obscuratus*
 Frequently seen.

White-rumped Munia, *Lonchura striata swinhoei*
 Two at Dujiangyan.

[Crimson-browed Finch, *Pinicola subhimachalus*]
 Two probables at Jieyin Hall, Emeishan. Unfortunately they flew off, calling, in the mist.

Oriental Greenfinch, *Carduelis sinica sinica*
 A few at the Panda Base, Chengdu.

Yellow-throated Bunting, *Emberiza elegans elegantula*
 One female at the Panda Base, Chengdu.