

**North Sichuan,
Sichuan, China**
(Rouergai, Gezangjiaze and Jiuzhaigou)

1-3 July 2006



The target bird of the weekend, a pair of Tibetan Grey Shrikes

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General

The purpose of this trip was two-fold. Primarily I wanted to see the Tibetan Grey Shrike (giganteus form of Chinese Grey Shrike) and secondly I wanted to survey an area of high altitude bamboo forest north of Jiuzhaigou to see if the lost Przewalski's Parrotbill could be found. The high-light was of course the crippling views of the Tibetan Grey Shrike. I watched a pair around their nest for a long time and could take plenty of photos of this beast that most probably is a separate species. On the other end of the scale, it was a huge disappointment to find that all the nice bamboo had suffered from mass die-off. The habbo really looked ideal for the Parrotbill, but unfortunately there was nothing to be seen. Przewalski's Parrotbill, known from only four sites ever and only one of those in modern times, therefore remains an enigma.

A trip to this part of the world is however something truly spectacular when it comes to scenery. The vast rolling grasslands and hills on the Tibetan plateau must be some of the most awesome landscapes in Asia. In this area I saw plenty of the high altitude birds like Black-necked Crane, White-rumped Snowfinch, White-browed Tit, White-browed Tit-Warbler, Hume's Groundpecker and Streaked Rosefinch.

The second day I spent in high altitude forest at a seldom-visited part of Sichuan, which is along a road that reaches 3800 masl just south of Gezangjiaze. This forest rivals the famous forests at nearby Jiuzhaigou and I found key species such as Sukatshev's Laughingthrush, Blue Eared-Pheasant, Giant Laughingthrush, Crested Tit-Warbler, Tibetan Serin, Three-banded Rosefinch and White-throated Redstart.

At the end of the trip I also spent considerable time (unsuccessfully) looking for my jinx Moustached Laughingthrush near Jiuzhaigou. Some compensation came in the shape of the distinct northern form of Spectacled Fulvetta.

All in all some real good birds in the most beautiful scenery, clearly my favorite part of China!!

Itinerary

1/7

I left Chengdu with the first morning flight at 6.50 to Jiuzhai-Huanglong airport. The weather was clear and I could enjoy some truly spectacular views of gorgeous mountain ranges. During the inflight we flew low over Gonggangling, where I have been birding a couple of times. I was met by the pre-booked driver and within minutes at 7.45 we were on our way to the Tibetan plateau. At nearby Chuanzhisi, we bought some water and then took the rather poor road 213 due north towards Rouergai.



Spectacular mountains near Jiuzhai-Huanglong airport



Gonggangling, a patch of good forest about halfway between Jiuzhaigou and Chuanzhisi (near the airport)

We left Chuanzhisi at 8.00 and after 1h45m we arrived at the crossroads to Hongyuan, which was my initial destination. The driver thought that the road conditions would be rather bad and as I had back-up sites for the target Tibetan Grey Shrike at Rouergai, I quickly decided to go straight to Rouergai instead. At 10.00-10.45 I made a road-side birding stop at some scrub-covered hillsides. As I was keen to get to Rouergai, I did not stop too many times along this road, although it looked good. The scenery on the Tibetan plateau is absolutely breathtaking and is a must to experience. Equally breathtaking is walking too fast uphill if not acclimatized for the altitudes, which I wasn't when coming straight from sea-level in Beijing.



Rolling grasslands on the Tibetan plateau south of Rouergai, unfortunately heavily grazed by Yaks.

At 12.30 we reached the crossroads to Rouergai and Bauzuo/Baxi/Heihe/Jiuzhaigou and only 15 minutes later Rouergai came into view. It was here that I started to look for the Shrikes. After only a few stops I noticed a huge Shrike on a wire, but before I could get the scope out it had disappeared. As there was nowhere to hide for such a bird except in a thin row of tall bushes, I scanned them one by one. Sure enough, it did not take me long before I found a nest of sticks with an incredibly long tail sticking out. Over the next hour I felt privileged to be able to watch and photograph these beasts. Having ringed Great Grey Shrikes, I can honestly say that I could give handheld giganteus a miss. Not only are they massive birds, but the hook of the bill is quite amazing. When trying to stretch for the nest (feather samples for DNA...), I could vision Big Mama Shrike ripping my skull-bone and making Ural Owl a cozy pet in comparison. Having seen quite a few nominate sphenocercus Chinese Grey Shrikes, I must say that these birds appear significantly larger. Nevertheless, Chinese scientist have recently published an article where they claim that there is much overlap in measurements, contrary to what is published in the two recent books about Shrikes.

After having had satisfying looks at this impressive bird, we drove into the town of Rouergai to get some lunch. Rouergai is a small township spread out on the Tibetan plateau just below a bush-clad hill. Although small, the local police guy thought it was big enough to even have a stop-light with a manual traffic police. At 14.45 we were recharged and headed north towards Daba Hu (lake), which should be some 50 km north of town. The road was good and we again drove across some stunning landscape. A surprise bunch of cars with a group of tripod-carriers made me stop and have a quick chat with a birding group (good to meet you Paul!). Brown-headed Gulls, Pikas, Hume's Groundpeckers and White-rumped Snowfinches were all spread out across the grasslands. While continuing further north we ran into a halt at a road-work and as it seemed to take some time to get clearance, I instead decided to return south. Three distant pairs of Black-necked Cranes and more Groundpeckers and Snowfinches brightened up the journey.

We passed Rouergai and headed due east at 16.45. After 15 km we reached the crossroads with the road to Chuanzhisi, where we had arrived in the morning. This time we continued east on a good road that soon took us over the edge of the plateau and down into lush coniferous forest with willow scrubs. Some road-side stops did not produce anything unexpected so we continued to the village of Baxi. This was

the place where I had planned to stay overnight and we soon found a Tibetan kind of B&B. After having “checked in”, we drove a few km up a side-road and birded in the open stream-side forest. Again nothing of great value to be seen and as it started to rain, we returned to the village. Our hosts had started to cook dinner for us and we all assembled in their kitchen, while heaven opened up. Good food, a beer and some limited conversation made the evening enjoyable. Later when I was doing my notes on the laptop in my room, the mother and daughter kindly asked if they could watch while I was writing. They thought it was even more of a success, when I took photos of them and immediately transferred to the laptop.

The night was uneventful, apart from being woken most of the time due to the entire pack of village dogs having a party. I have never heard so persistent barking from so many dogs at the same time... The rain continued for most of the night!



The accommodation at Baxi, where we had dinner in their kitchen, while heaven opened up.

2/7

We set off from Baxi at 04.40 and drove on good roads towards Gezangjiaze mountain pass. In the dark, I suddenly saw a huge owl on a phone-post and after explaining to the surprised driver that I quickly wanted to turn around the car we eventually had the head-lights pointing at an Eagle Owl (not the hoped for Pere David's Owl or Tawny Fish-Owl...).



Coniferous forest on the west side of Gezangjiaze.

About 05.45 we were at 3120 masl and dawn was breaking and we were surrounded by nice-looking coniferous forest. I started birding along the road and it did not take me long before I heard the distinctive calls of the extremely localized Sukatshev's Laughingthrush. Initially it did not respond at

all, but suddenly one of them decided to give up and offered some fantastic views. I continued to walk along this road that eventually took me to above the tree-line near the pass itself. Until 11.30 I covered some 11 km and ended up at 3600 masl. Once I saw at least two Blue Eared-Pheasants in a grassy clearing and later on I flushed a group of three, which could have been the same birds. I enjoyed my best views ever of the normally flighty Tibetan Serin, with a single bird that came in to my pishing. By midday I had reached the alpine scrub and although I kept searching, I could not find my target Crimson-browed Finch. As I was keen to move on to the bamboo forest on the eastern side of the pass, I left this side of the mountain by 11.45. After crossing the pass at 3865 masl we descended quickly to below 3000 masl where the forest resumed. It did not take long until I found extensive areas of bamboo undergrowth, although as mentioned previously, it was all dead! No Parrotbills and no Blanford's Rosefinches were to be seen. This was an area where I had planned to spend a full day scouting as well as 2-3 days the coming weekend. Needless to say, I did not find it worthwhile, so therefore we continued past some smaller villages like Dajiu, Yuwa, Heihe and Lingjiang until we at 14.45 reached the main Jiuzhaigou road.



Extensive areas of dead bamboo east of Gezangjiaze. One can just imagine the sight of Przewalski's Parrotbills when the bamboo was flowering...

The rest of the day I spent looking for Moustached Laughingthrush without getting a sniff of it. The night was spent in Jiuzhaigou.

3/7

Perseverance normally pays off, so at dawn I was again looking for the Laughingthrush in spite of the light rain. Although I spent four hours working the area, they were nowhere to be found and eventually I gave up and started the two hours return journey to the airport.

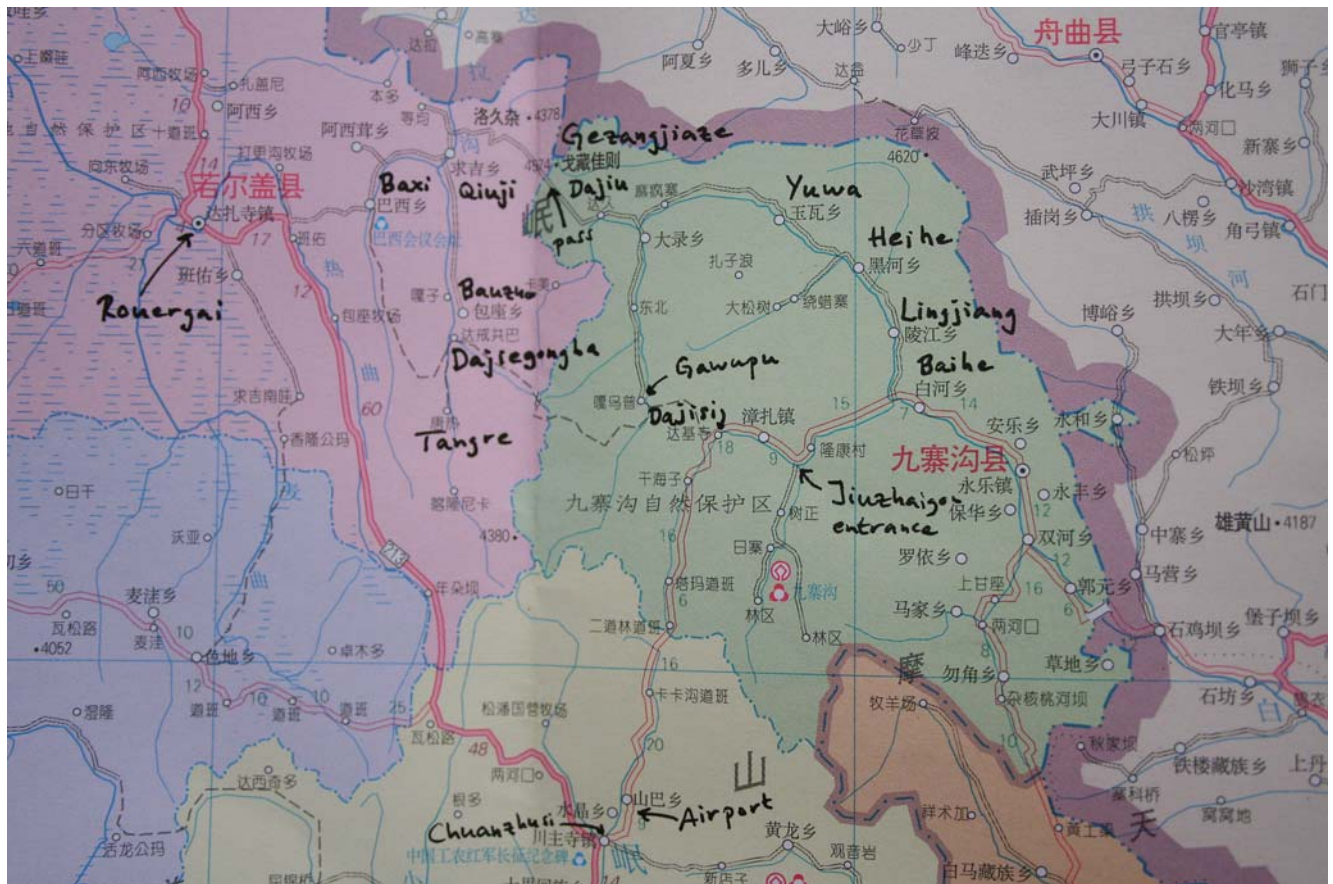
Weather

The first day on the Tibetan plateau was mostly sunny with a brilliant clear sky. At the end of that day it started to drizzle and when we stayed overnight in Baxi it could be classified as torrential rain. Fortunately by the morning it had cleared up and the day on the mountain pass was dry with good visibility. Late in the evening it started to rain again and continued until late the last morning.

Logistics

I organized a 4WD car with a driver at the cost of 860 RMB per day including everything. Actually it turned out to include even my food and lodging at Baxi and the driver's and the guide's expenses. In Jiuzhaigou I stayed at a nice and clean hotel just east of town and paid 40 RMB for the night.

Site descriptions



Map showing the areas visited with some of the Chinese names translated into pinyin.

Rouergai

Rouergai is a smallish town on the Tibetan plateau. The town is surrounded by vast areas of grazed grasslands and rolling hillsides. These hills are sometimes covered with small bushes that hold many of the special passerines. There are also some wetter areas, although at the time of my visit these were mostly rather dry. Restaurants are plentiful and no doubt it is easy to find accommodation.

Gezhangjiaze

Gezhangjiaze is the name of a 4574 meter high mountain near the border with Gansu. As I do not know any other name for the areas I visited, I use the name of the mountain itself. The road from Rouergai/Baxi to Heihe/Jiuzhaigou leads across a mountain pass at 3865 masl (at least according to my altimeter...). The west side of the pass is covered with good coniferous forests interspersed with small clearings. At higher altitudes the slopes are covered with scrub and bushes. I found no bamboo on this side of the pass. To the east of the pass the road winds down through grazed grassy slopes and at around 3000 masl the forest takes over. Slightly lower there is extensive bamboo undergrowth in the forest and it looks perfect for parrotbills and Blandford's Rosefinch. Apart from checking the bamboo areas, I did not spend time birding in the deciduous forests on this side of the pass. I am sure that many of the mid-altitude specialties at Jiuzhaigou can also be found here.

At dawn I started walking in good coniferous forest at an altitude of 3120 masl, which is about 34 km (one hour drive) east of Baxi. Sukatshev's Laughers was seen here and two more were heard in scrub below a disused settlement. On the right side there is a tiny hut with a sheep-coral and an open clearing to the left which is surrounded by a left hand hairpin bend. Just above the tiny hut there is a scrubby area where one SL was seen. The settlement is above this area. I then walked 11 km up along this road until reaching above the tree-line at 3600 masl. The forest is excellent and almost rivals that of Primeval Forest at Jiuzhaigou and certainly has many of the same species.

Road conditions:

Airport to Chuanzhisi	Very good
Chuanzhisi to crossroads for Hongyuan	Rather bad, but can be done with regular car
Crossroads to Rouergai	Mostly good. The road is being repaired and one lane is finished (concrete) for about 50 % (intermittent) of the way. The bridges are not yet ready.
North of Rouergai	Very good
Crossroads west of Rouergai to Baxi	Good (surfaced)
Baxi, via Gezangjiaze pass to Dajiu	Good (surfaced, except for short stretches).
Dajiu to Yuwa	Mostly good, but some areas bumpy and a bit muddy, although fully passable with a regular car.
Yuwa to Jiuzhaigou crossroads	Good
Crossroads to Jiuzhaigou	Very good
Jiuzhaigou to airport near Chuanzhisi	Very good



The east side of Gezangjiaze

Birds

The list of birds is not really representative for this excellent part of China. I had limited time and concentrated on finding some key birds and therefore missed several, some even common, species.

Ruddy Shelduck, *Tadorna ferruginea*

Two pairs (one with chicks) around Rouergai.

Black Kite, *Milvus migrans lineatus*

10-15 on the Rouergai plateau and one at Jiuzhaigou airport.

Himalayan Griffon, *Gyps himalayensis*

20-25 on the Rouergai plateau.



Himalayan Griffon

Eurasian Buzzard, *Buteo buteo japonicus*

One near Baxi.

Upland Buzzard, *Buteo hemilasius*

Three on the Rouergai plateau.



Upland Buzzard

Golden Eagle, *Aquila chrysaetos* ssp

One south of Rouergai and one north of Rouergai.

Blue Eared-Pheasant, *Crossoptilon auritum*

First two seen on an open grassy slope at 33450 m (two hairpin bends above the check-post) and one hour later three were flushed slightly higher up, but these could have been the same birds.



Blue Eared-Pheasant

Ring-necked Pheasant, *Phasianus colchicus suehschanensis*

A pair with small chicks at Jiuzhaigou.

Black-necked Crane, *Grus nigricollis*

Three pairs in the same area west of the road about 30 km north of Rouergai.

Brown-headed Gull, *Larus brunnicephalus*

One south of Rouergai and about 50 north of Rouergai.

Common Tern, *Sterna hirundo tibetana*

Two near Rouergai.

Oriental Turtle-Dove, *Streptopelia orientalis orientalis*

Two at Jiuzhaigou.

Red Collared-Dove, *Streptopelia tranquebarica humilis*

One at Jiuzhaigou.

Large Hawk-Cuckoo, *Cuculus sparverioides sparverioides*

One at Baxi and one at Jiuzhaigou.

Common Cuckoo, *Cuculus canorus bakeri*

15-20 south of Rouergai and along the road to Baxi. One at Jiuzhaigou.

Lesser Cuckoo, *Cuculus poliocephalus*

One at Baxi.

Eurasian Eagle-Owl, *Bubo bubo kiautschensis*

One was seen at close range shortly east of Baxi, when it was perched on a phone-post before dawn.



Eurasian Eagle-Owl

Little Owl, *Athene noctua impasta/ludlowi*

One about 20 km north of Rouergai.

[Grey Nightjar, *Caprimulgus indicus ssp*

One on the road east of Baxi was presumably this species, but only the red eyes were seen.]

Fork-tailed Swift, *Apus pacificus kanoi*

One at Jiuzhaigou and a large flock near Gonggangling, west of Jiuzhaigou.

Great Spotted Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos major stresemanni*

One pair at Baxi and one pair at Jiuzhaigou.

Black Woodpecker, *Dryocopus martius khamensis*

One at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass.

Oriental Skylark, *Alauda gulgula inopinata*

Common on the Rouergai plateau.

Horned Lark, *Eremophila alpestris (khamensis?)*

Common south of Rouergai and a few north of Rouergai.

Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica gutturalis*

One in Rouergai.

Asia House-Martin, *Delichon dasypus cashmirensis*

A few at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass and common at the east side of Gezangjiaze pass.

White Wagtail, *Motacilla alba alboides*

A few south of Rouergai and near Baxi and common at the east side of Gezangjiaze pass.

Grey Wagtail, *Motacilla cinerea robusta*

One pair at Baxi and a few at the east side of Gezangjiaze pass.

Olive-backed Pipit, *Anthus hodgsoni hodgsoni*

Two at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass.

Rosy Pipit, *Anthus roseatus*

About five at a road-side stop between Chuanzhisi and Rouergai.



Rosy Pipit

Goldcrest, *Regulus regulus yunannensis*

One at 3500 m at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass.

Winter Wren, *Troglodytes troglodytes szetschuanus*

Common at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass.

Rufous-breasted Accentor, *Prunella strophiatea strophiatea*

Three at a road-side stop between Chuanzhisi and Rouergai and common at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass.

Blue Rock-Thrush, *Monticola solitarius philippensis*

Two near Jiuzhaigou.

Chestnut Thrush, *Turdus rubrocanus gouldi*

About five near Baxi and common at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass and Jiuzhaigou.



Chestnut Thrush

Kessler's Thrush, *Turdus kessleri*

One at a road-side stop between Chuanzhisi and Rouergai, one near Baxi and about five at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass.

Chinese Song Thrush, *Turdus mupinensis*

Two at Jiuzhaigou.

Spotted Bush-Warbler, *Bradypterus thoracicus* ssp

One heard at 3500 m at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass.

White-browed Tit-Warbler, *Leptopoeile sophiae obscura*

Two at a road-side stop between Chuanzhisi and Rouergai.



White-browed Tit-Warbler

Crested Tit-Warbler, *Leptopoeile elegans*

One female at 3200 m at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass.

Dusky Warbler, *Phylloscopus fuscatus robustus*

Two seen and heard singing and calling at a road-side stop between Chuanzhisi and Rouergai.

This form calls with a somewhat softer contact call. Song is a series of repeated notes similar to nominate.



Dusky Warbler

Tickell's Leaf-Warbler, *Phylloscopus affinis*

Three at a road-side stop between Chuanzhisi and Rouergai and about five at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass.

Yellow-streaked Warbler, *Phylloscopus armandii armandii*

About five near Baxi, at few at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass and common at Jiuzhaigou.

Buff-barred Warbler, *Phylloscopus pulcher pulcher*

Three at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass.

Sichuan Leaf-Warbler, *Phylloscopus forresti*

About five near Baxi and common at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass.

Hume's Leaf-Warbler, *Phylloscopus humei mandellii*

One near Baxi and four at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass.

Greenish Warbler, *Phylloscopus trochiloides obscuratus*

Three near Baxi and common at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass and the east side of Gezangjiaze pass.



Greenish Warbler

Large-billed Leaf-Warbler, *Phylloscopus magnirostris*

Common at the east side of Gezangjiaze pass and one at Jiuzhaigou.

Bianchi's Warbler, *Seicercus valentini*

Two at the east side of Gezangjiaze pass.

Siberian Flycatcher, *Muscicapa sibirica rothschildi*

Two at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass.

Slaty-backed Flycatcher, *Ficedula hodgsonii*

Three near Baxi and common at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass and the east side of Gezangjiaze pass and a few at Jiuzhaigou.

Orange-flanked Bush-Robin, *Tarsiger rufilatus*

One female near Baxi and 10-15 at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass.

Black Redstart, *Phoenicurus ochruros rufiventris*

Common south of Rouergai and on the Rouergai plateau.

Hodgson's Redstart, *Phoenicurus hodgsoni*

One at Jiuzhaigou.

White-throated Redstart, *Phoenicurus schisticeps*

Fairly common above 3300 m at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass.

Daurian Redstart, *Phoenicurus aureus ssp*

One at Jiuzhaigou.

Blue-fronted Redstart, *Phoenicurus frontalis*

One at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass.

White-capped Water-Redstart, *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*

Common along the streams south of Rouergai, at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass and the east side of Gezangjiaze pass.

Plumbeous Water-Redstart, *Rhyacornis fuliginosus fuliginosus*

About ten near Baxi and common at the east side of Gezangjiaze pass.

White-bellied Redstart, *Hodgsonius phaenicuroides ichangensis*

Two at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass.

Common Stonechat, *Saxicola torquata przewalskii*

Common in scrubby areas south of Rouergai and one between Gonggangling and Jiuzhaigou airport.

Pere David's Laughingthrush, *Garrulax davidi concolor*

Four near Baxi and five at Jiuzhaigou.

Sukatschev's Laughingthrush, *Garrulax sukatschewi*

One seen and two more heard at 3200 m at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass. This species is only very rarely recorded outside of Jiuzhaigou.



Sukatschev's Laughingthrush

Giant Laughingthrush, *Garrulax maximus*

Two at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass.

Elliot's Laughingthrush, *Garrulax elliotii elliotii*

Common around Baxi, at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass and at Jiuzhaigou.

Spot-breasted Scimitar-Babbler, *Pomatorhinus erythrocnemis gravivox*

Six at Jiuzhaigou.

Spectacled Fulvetta, *Alcippe ruficapilla ruficapilla*

Two at Jiuzhaigou.

Streak-throated Fulvetta, *Alcippe cinereiceps cinereiceps/fessa*

One at 3400 m at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass.



Streak-throated Fulvetta

Songar Tit, *Poecile songara weigoldicus*

Four at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass.

White-browed Tit, *Poecile superciliosa*

One at a road-side stop between Chuanzhisi and Rouergai and one at 3500 m at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass.



White-browed Tit

Coal Tit, *Periparus ater aemodius*

One at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass.

Rufous-vented Tit, *Periparus rubidiventris beavani*

One at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass.

Grey-crested Tit, *Lophophanes dichrous dichroides*

Four at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass.

Great Tit, *Parus major tibetanus*

One at Jiuzhaigou.

Hume's Groundpecker, *Pseudopodoces humilis*

Locally common on the Rouergai plateau, especially north of Rouergai.

Eurasian Treecreeper, *Certhia familiaris khamensis*

One at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass.

Grey-backed Shrike, *Lanius tephronotus tephronotus*

Frequently seen south of Rouergai, on the Rouergai plateau and around Baxi. Common at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass, the east side of Gezangjiaze pass and Jiuzhaigou.

Tibetan Grey Shrike, *Lanius [sphenocercus] giganteus*

One pair was seen at the nest along the road three km east of the bridge at Rouergai. The taxon *giganteus* may well represent a separate species from the nominate *sphenocercus*. In the literature (Lefranc & Worfolk 1997 and Harris & Franklin 2000) it is stated that *giganteus* is significantly larger in size than *sphenocercus*. However in a web-published article (Fu-Min Lei, Anton Kristin and Hong-Feng Zhao, *Biological Lett.* 2004, 41 (2):175-180, available online at <http://www.biolett.amu.edu.pl>) the authors state that “it appears that morphological measurements (wing, tail, bill, tarsus and weight) are not as important for distinguishing between the two races as the colour variation in the amount of white in the superciliary stripes and forehead base.”. According to their measurements of 7 *giganteus* and 17 *sphenocercus* specimens there is some extent of overlap in all the measurements. There is nothing mentioned in the article about the absence of white across the base of the secondaries in *giganteus* and only briefly mentioned the overall darker upperparts and underparts. *Giganteus* is mainly a breeding resident between 3000 and 5000 masl on the Tibetan plateau, whereas *sphenocercus* is a mainly migratory bird which breeds from sea-level to 1100 masl in North-East China and South-East Russia. In general *giganteus* is at least as different from *sphenocercus* as is Great Grey Shrike (*Lanius excubitor ssp*).



Tibetan Grey Shrike

Azure-winged Magpie, *Cyanopica cyana kansuensis*

One south of Rouergai.
Daurian Jackdaw, *Corvus dauuricus*
One second-year bird at Baxi. Prominent white neck-patch and grey underparts.
Oriental Crow, *Corvus orientalis*
20, mostly near Chuanzhisi and several at the east side of Gezangjiaze pass and Jiuzhaigou.
Common Raven, *Corvus corax tibetanus*
Two on the Rouergai plateau.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow, *Passer montanus obscuratus*
Common in the villages.
White-rumped Snowfinch, *Montifringilla taczanowskii*
10+ in the vicinity of Pikas about 30 km north of Rouergai.
Plain Mountain-Finch, *Leucosticte nemoricola nemoricola*
Three at the east side of Gezangjiaze pass.
Common Rosefinch, *Carpodacus erythrinus roseatus*
Frequently seen and heard on scrubby hillsides on the Rouergai plateau and one at the east side of Gezangjiaze pass.
Beautiful Rosefinch, *Carpodacus pulcherrimus argyrophrys*
A few at a road-side stop between Chuanzhisi and Rouergai and ten at Baxi.
Vinaceous Rosefinch, *Carpodacus vinaceus vineceus*
One pair at the east side of Gezangjiaze pass.
Three-banded Rosefinch, *Carpodacus trifasciatus*
Three at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass.
White-browed Rosefinch, *Carpodacus thura dubius*
Two heard near Baxi and common at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass.
Streaked Rosefinch, *Carpodacus rubicilloides rubicilloides*
At least one at a road-side stop between Chuanzhisi and Rouergai.
Twite, *Carduelis flavirostris miniakensis*
10+ south of Rouergai.
Tibetan Serin, *Serinus thibetanus*
One seen well at 3400 m at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass.
Grey-headed Bullfinch, *Pyrrhula erythaca erythaca*
Three at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass.
White-winged Grosbeak, *Mycerobas carnipes carnipes*
Two at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass.
Godlewski's Bunting, *Emberiza godlewski omissa*
Two at the forested west side of Gezangjiaze pass.