Qinghai 13-days Bird Tour Report

12th - 24th June 2013

Local bird guide & reported by: Summer Wong (<u>summerwong2010@126.com</u>)

Participants: Dingli Yong, Lin Jinghui, Huang Jingduan,

Samantha Ang, Yiseng Yong



Watching Tibetan Sandgrouse in Ela Mountain

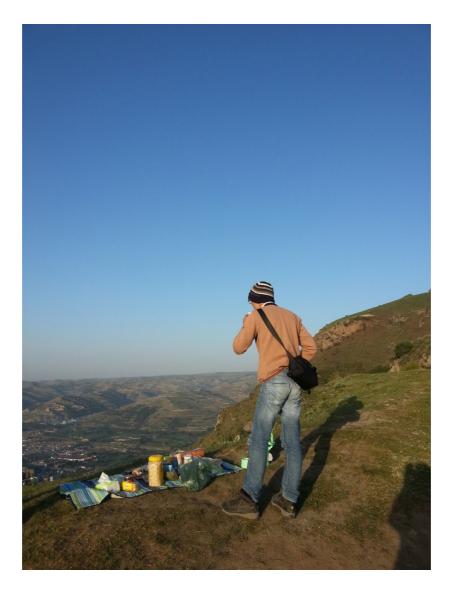
Day 1, 12th June

After picking up Dingli and Ahui (Lin Jinghui) from airport 4:00pm headed to the north of Xining looking for Pale Rosefinch, got both nice male and female, and also Meadow and Godlewski's Bunting, Snow and Hill Pigeon, Plain Laughingthrush (Pere David's ~), Pied Wheatear, Common Pheasant, Red-billed Chough, Black-billed Magpie, Daurian Redstart, Grey-backed Shrike, Brown Accentor, Eurasian Collared Dove.

Day 2, 13th June

Morning birding in north of Xining and Dongxia forest park, got White-winged Grosbeak, Plain and Elliot's Laughingthrush, Siberian Rubythroat, endemic Gansu Leaf Warbler, Yellow-streaked and Greenish

Warblers, Hume's and Chinese Leaf Warbler, Goldcrest, Chestnut Thrush, Common Pheasant, Oriental Turtle Dove, Hodgson's and White-throated Redstarts, Salim Ali's Swift, Slaty-backed Flycatcher, Chinese Nuthatch, Sichuan Tit, Rufous-vented Tit, White-browed Rosefinch, with hard searching finally got White-cheeked Nuthatch. Pick up other 3 clients from airport then headed to Huzhu, overnight there.



Breakfast in nice and warm sunshine having a bird's-eye view of Xining city

Day 3, 14th June

First target bird today is **Chinese Grouse**, got a female sleeping on a tree 10 meters away from us! Then headed to look for **Blue-eared Pheasant**, spotted one enjoying its sunbath on a short dead tree trunk, very nice view through the telescope! In the bushes we got nice **White-browed Tit** and **Tit Warbler**, **Spotted Bush Warblers**, **Pink-rumped** and **Common Rosefinches**, **Large-billed** and **Alpine Leaf Warbler**, Plain and Elliot's Laughingthrush, **Blue-fronted**, **Black**, **White-capped**, White-throated and Hodgson's **Redstarts**, **Winter Wren**, **Himalayan Bluetail**, **Rufous-breasted Accentor**, **Grey-headed Bullfinch**, **Olive-backed Pipit**, **Kessler's Thrush**, **Large-billed Crow**, **Carrion Crow**, **Azure-winged Magpie**, **Black Woodpecker**. Overnight in Huangyuan.



Muslim barbecue & square noodle dinner in Huangyuan





Day 4, 15th June

Heading to Chaka birding on the way near Qinghaihu Lake, got Tibetan Lark, Black-necked Crane, Isabelline Wheatear, Oriental Skylark, Mongolian and Horned Lark, Twite, Rock Sparrow, Rufousnecked, Black-winged and White-rumped Snowfinch, Ground Tit, Brown and Robin Accentor quite common there, Pale Martin, Commone Stonechat, Alpine Leaf Warbler, Common and Upland Buzzard, Golden Eagle, Himalayan Griffon, by hard searching finally got the amazing male Przevalski's Rosefinch (Pink-tailed Bunting) displaying to a female! Also an unexpected male stunning Streaked Rosefinch, Tibetan Partridge. Overnight in Chaka.





Day 5, 16th June

Birding to the west of Chaka area in the morning, got Rusty-necklaced Partridge (Przevalski's Partridge), Daurian Partridge, Titetan Partridge, Wallcreeper, Crag Martin and Pine Bunting, White-winged Grosbeak again, flying Pallas's Sandgrouses, Plain-backed Snowfinch in dersert, Common Swift, Isabelline Wheatear, Ground Tit.





Enjoying watermelon after lunch

Day 6, 17th June

Today has a long way drive to Maduo, still managed birding on the way, got some great birds like Roborovski's Rosefinch (Tibetan Rosefinch), Prince Henry's Snowfinch, White-winged Redstart which is as quite common as the Rufous-necked Snowfinches on the way, Tibetan and Horned Lark, White-rumped Snowfinch, Ground Tit, Alpine Leaf Warbler again, Black-faced Bunting, Common Cuckoo, Common Hoopoe, Flying Brown-headed Gull and Ruddy Shelduck around the small lake/ponds with Common Redshanks, Lesser, Sandplovers on the shore. Overnight in Maduo.

Day 7, 18th June

Long driving to Nangqian, except the Brown Deeper, Chinese Beautiful Rosefinch, Red-fronted Rosefinch, Asian House Martin and Daurian Jackdaw were the first sight, other birds are the same

species seen before: Tibetan Partridge, Rock Sparrow, Lesser Sandplover, White-winged Redstart, Tibetan Lark, Ground Tit, Crag Martin, White-browed Tit Warbler, Salim Ali's Swift, Black-winged Snowfinch.









Day 8, 19th June

Birding in Kandashan Mountain, main target birds are **Tibetan Bunting** which took a hard try for the first sight, but later it's turned out a easy and excited calling bird there, **White-tailed Rubythroat** was a hard at that time, no calling at all, only one brief flying sight then disappeared into the bushes, never show again. Red-fronted Rosefinch and **Grandala** high up on the top of the mountain with **Tibetan Snowcocks** which were well hidden in the rock part, at least 7 **White-eared Pheasant** group make us so excited! Lovely White-browed Tit and White-browed Tit Warbler again, Snow Pigeon on the grass, White-capped Redstart and **Plain Mountain Finch** quite common there, **Red-billed Chough, Tibetan Babax** and **Smoky Warbler** (split from Dusky Warbler) were other great target birds got there, babax was very noisy around the village, Tibetan Partridge, Sichuan Tit, White-throated Redstart, Chinese Beautiful and Pink-rumped Rosefinches, White-winged Grosbeak again.





Day 9, 20th June

Whole day birding in Baizha forest, the most hard and excited bird we got was the nice male **Three-banded Rosefinch** which Dingli wanted it most as he missed it in his Sichuan trip years ago without a bird guide. A well dead tree trunk landed **Black Woodpecker** also a highlight for him as this was his lifer in Asia. The well showing **Crested Tit Warbler** which mixed with other small birds like Grey-crested Tit, Goldcrest and Rufous-vented Tit made Ahui excited as he only got a very brief and quick view of the tit warbler in his Sichuan trip years ago with Tangjun. A close and enjoying view of the Giant Laughingthrush made us excited too. Himalayan Bluetail, **Hodgson't Treecreeper**, **Slaty-backed Flycatcher**, **Aberrant Bush Warbler**, **Sichuan Leaf Warbler**, Winter Wren, Tibetan Babax , White-winged Grosbeak, Grey-backed Shrike, Sichuan Tit, **Black-browed Tit, Chinese Fulvetta, Tibetan Siskin**, White-throated Redstart, Wallcreeper, Common Rosefinch, Plain Mountain Finch. Heard Maroon-backed Accentor.

Day 10, 21st June

Another long driving day from Nangqian back to Wenquan. On the road we got **Saker Falcon, Red-rumped Swallow, Common Merganser, Bar-headed Goose, Black-necked Crane,** Brown-headed Gull, Upland Buzzard, White-winged and Black Redstart, Rufous-necked Snowfinch, Ruddy Shelduck.

Day 11, 22nd June

Spending the whole morning for searching the **Tibetan Sandgrouse** by climbing up to the top of Ela Mountain, hard on the way up but worthy and so excited when we got it! Along with the sandgrouse we got **Brandt's Mountain Finch**, Plain Mountain Finch, Pince Henry's, Rufous-necked and White-rumped Snowfinch, Horned Lark, Tibetan Snowcock. On the way to Gonghe, we got **White Throat**, Black-faced

Bunting, Rock Sparrow, Daurian Partridge, Common Swift, Meadow Bunting, Common Cuckoo. Overnight in Gonghe.



Day 12, 23rd June

Drive back to Xining, sent Dingli to airport.

Day 13, 24th June

Before airport sending off, did some birding in north of Xining as the other three who arrived one day later at the beginning didn't go to there before, to look for Pale Rosefinch for them, and succeeded.







Climbing in Ela Mountain









