

Sichuan Bird Tour Report

8th - 23rd June 2014

Local Bird Guide: Summer Wong

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Clients: Annika Ulita, Jarmo Antero, Christer Andreas, Jarmo Esko, Gustaf Georg



Day 1, 8th June

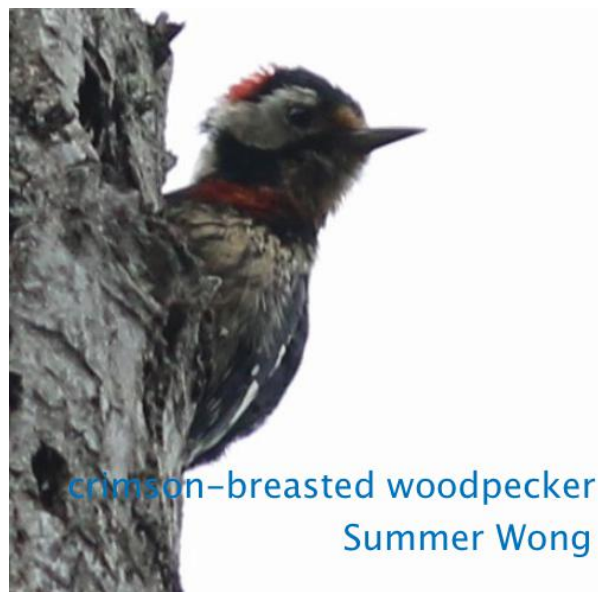
Picked up clients in Chengdu East Train Station at around 3 pm heading to Longcanggou, on the way stopped at a gas station birding around there, we got **Ashy-throated Parrotbill**, **Vinous-throated Parrotbill**, a fantastic good start with 2 parrotbills! **Barn Swallow** building nest under the roof of the restaurant there, and heard Rufous-capped Babbler, the other birds we got on the way are **White-browed Laughingthrush**, **Chinese Bulbul**, **Eurasian Tree Sparrow**, **Black-crowned Night Heron**, **Eastern Cattle Egret**, **Little Egret**, **Spotted Dove**, **Red-rumped Swallow**, **Crested Myna**, **Brown-breasted Bulbul**, **Black Bulbul**. Arrived at the hostel at around 7:30 pm, it's almost dark, but still got **Yellow-throated Bunting**, **Black-naped Oriole** in the yard of the hostel, and **Forest Wagtail**, I was the only one got it on the roof of hostel while clients rushed down to the lower area for other birds, there they heard all the cuckoo species in this area: Oriental Cuckoo, Large Hawk Cuckoo, Lesser Cuckoo, Common Cuckoo, Asian Koel. Other birds of the day: **Himalayan Swiftlet**, **Grey Wagtail**, **White Wagtail**, **Oriental Magpie Robin**, **Red-billed Blue Magpie**, **Long-tailed Shrike**, heard Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler, Russet Bush Warbler. As all the other four clients had seen Forest Wagtail before, Andreas is the only one who needed it, so I promised to get it for him in next few days.



Day 2, 9th June

Drove up to the mountain early in the morning, arrived at the parking lot having breakfast there then we headed up to the top of the mountain, since breakfast time it started and kept raining for the whole day, and getting heavier through the day, no doubt to be a hard day! In the rain we got **Crimson-breasted Woodpecker**, **Emei Shan Liocichla**, **Vinaceous Rosefinch**, Barn Swallow, Red-rumped Swallow, **Long-tailed Minivet**, Grey Wagtail, White Wagtail, **Grey-hooded Fulvetta**, **White-collared Yuhina**, **Yellow-browed Tit**, **Green-backed Tit**, **Mrs Gould's Sunbird**, **Aberrant Bush Warbler**, **Bianchi's Warbler**, **Kloss's Leaf Warbler**, **Claudia's Warbler**, **Sichuan Leaf Warbler**, **Buff-barred Warbler**, **Large-billed Leaf Warbler**, Red-billed Blue Magpie. Heard

Chinese Fulvetta, Winter Wren, White-browed Shortwing, White-browed Bush Robin, White-bellied Redstart, Chestnut-headed Tesia, reached the top, stayed and searched for Grey-hooded Parrotbill, Brown Parrotbill, but in vain, then we descended down to the breakfast place, had lunch there, in the afternoon, we drove down to the lower area for other parrotbills, on the way down got a female **Lady Amherst's Pheasant** on the road side just a few seconds then it hide into the bamboo. In the lower area we got very good view of **Golden Parrotbill**, **Golden-breasted Fulvetta** as expected, then focused on searching for **Three-toed Parrotbill**, I spotted it, clients followed my direction got it by naked eyes, but not enough time to clean and put the bins on it before it disappeared, annoying rain! Tomorrow need to try for a better view! When we got the Three-toed Parrotbill, we also heard Great Parrotbill in distance, there we happened to get a **White-tailed Robin** flying across the road in front of us, other birds we got today are **Plumbeous Water Redstart**, **Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler**, **Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler**, **Brown Bush Warbler**, **Ferrugineus**, **Verditer**, **Dark-sided**, **Grey-headed Canary**, **Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher**, **Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler**, **Pygmy Wren Babbler**, **Elliot's Laughingthrush**, **Red-billed Leiothrix**, **Grey-capped Greenfinch**. Heard Russet Bush Warbler, Grey-crowned Warbler.



Day 3, 10th June

In the original itinerary, today will go to Erlangshan, but yesterday after discussion we decided to spend one more day in Longcanggou, because the main target birds in Erlangshan is Lady Amherst's Pheasant, but clients all had good view of it in Yunnan years ago, the other good birds there like Firethroat, Barred Laughingthrush, Brown Parrotbill, Chinese Babax are all possible in the rest of the trip, and according to my experience with birdtourasia's trip in May, the traffic there is really bad, it took 5.5 hours from Longcanggou to Erlangshan, so eventually decided not to waste time on the traffic road, spending this day in Longcanggou for our target bird: Grey-hooded Parrotbill which we missed yesterday. It's cloudy for the whole day, compared to yesterday, so lucky today with the weather. Got a female Lady Amherst's Pheasant crossing the road when we drove up, today's strategy is to start from the lower area, got **Grey-crowned Warbler, Marten's Warbler, Emei Leaf Warbler, Chestnut-crowned Warbler, Red-tailed Minla, Russet Bush Warbler**, then drove up to the middle of the mountain parking there and had breakfast there, while having breakfast we had **Fire-capped Tit** perched on a dead tree, after a while I spotted a **Three-toed Woodpecker** flew to the dead tree where the Fire-capped Tit was perched on while I was staying at the same place frying eggs, but when I informed clients to come back for the woodpecker, it's gone. After breakfast, we birded around the breakfast place, there we got **Fujian Niltava, Red-winged Laughingthrush**, an unexpected **Sichuan Treecreeper** in such low area, then we kept going up to the spot for **Three-toed Parrotbill** and we succeeded, having a great view of it, at the same place of yesterday got a distant view of **Great Parrotbill**, got Emei Shan Liocichala again, **White-throated Needletail**, then drove up to the parking lot, walked up searching for **Grey-hooded Parrotbill**, and eventually got it near the top, there we also got **White-bellied Redstart, Buff-throated Warbler**, on the top area we got good view of **Brown Parrotbill**, heard Fulvous Parrotbill in distance, then we tried on a little trail on the top to go further area for Spotted Bush Warbler and Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler I had seen them many times in May at the same area before, but this time we didn't get them, probably because the season is different, there we got good view of Grey-hooded Fulvetta, **Winter Wren**, then we returned back, I was the last one for a toilet stop, when clients disappeared around a corner I heard the sound of **Sichuan Treecreeper**, and found it on a dead trunk, then I hurried to catch up clients and got them back to get a better view of it, Gustaf is the most happy one, because he missed it at the first time when we got it in the lower area. After the top we kept going down and birding along the road, in the very low area we got **Chinese Blue Flycatcher**, heard it first, but very hard to find it out! While we were trying very hard to look for the flycatcher, we got a **Buffy Laughingthrush**! The other birds of the day : Elliot's Laughingthrush, **Darjeeling Woodpecker**, Crimson-breasted Woodpecker, Chinese Bulbul, **Stripe-throated Yuhina, Yellow-bellied Tit, Japanese Great Tit, Buff-throated Warbler**, Bianchi's Warbler, **Buff-barred Warbler**, Green-backed Tit, **Eurasian Jay, Grey-capped Greenfinch, Besra, Rufous-capped Babbler** Himalayan Swiftlet, Vinaceous Rosefinch, got Yellow-throated Bunting in the hostel yard again. Heard Indian Blue Robin, Hodgson's Treecreeper, Winter Wren, White-browed Shortwing, White-browed Bush Robin, Chestnut-headed Tesia.



three-toed parrotbill
Summer Wong



grey-hooded parrotbill
Summer Wong



brown parrotbill
Summer Wong



sichuan tree creeper
Summer Wong



buff-throated warbler
Summer Wong

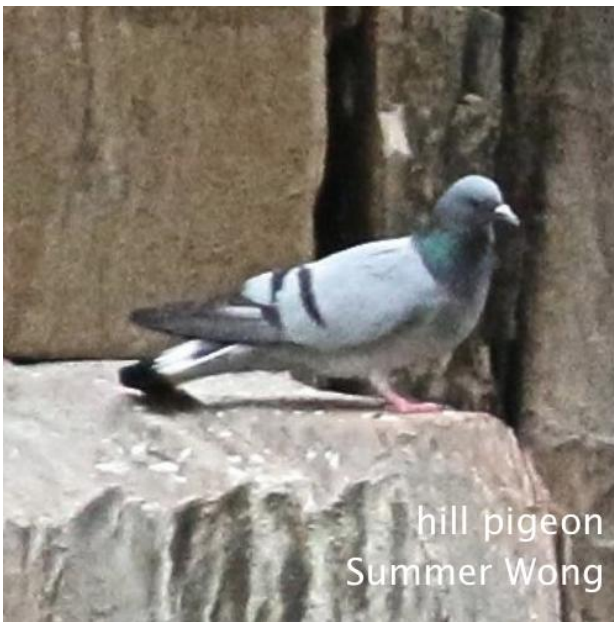


russet bush warbler
Summer Wong

Day 4, 11th June

Today our plan is birding in low area near the hostel had breakfast there then head for Rilong. While we were loading the luggage I heard **Forest Wagtail** somewhere in the yard again, rushing back to tell Andreas about it, and we got it on the roof! In the low area , we heard Chinese Bamboo Partridge singing very loudly on a slope hidden in the bamboo near a dried stream, while we were waiting the Bamboo Partridge to come out, we got Golden Parrotbill unexpectedly in the bamboo, even though we had seen it very well in the middle of the mountain, but we were still very excited to see it and photograph it again! We birded along the river, heard Lady Amherst's Pheasant singing on the other side of the river, also heard Bay Woodpecker, Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler, got **Brown Deeper** in the river, Vinous-throated Parrotbill, Grey-crowned Warbler, **Japanese White-eye**, **Rufous-faced Warbler**, **Spangled Drongo**, **Collared Finchbill**, **Russet Sparrow**, Black Bulbul, **White-rumped Munia**. On the way to Rilong, we got **House Swift** in Ya'an, a male **Common Pheasant** on the road when climbing Jiajin Shan! **Blue Whistling Thrush** on the wire, **Black-billed Magpie**, **Red-billed Chough**, **Himalayan (Common) Buzzard**, **Common Kestrel**, **Black-capped Kingfisher**, **Daurian Redstart**, **Plain Mountain Finch**, **Olive-backed Pipit**, 2 **Lammergeiers** on the cliff there we also heard Golden Pheasant on the other side of the valley, **Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush**, **Himalayan Griffon**, **Salim Ali's Swift** on the top of Jiajin Shan, after the pass we got **Blue-fronted Redstart**, **White-capped Water Redstart**, **Long-tailed Thrush**, heard Slaty-backed Redstart, Giant Laughingthrush, when we almost at the foot of Jiajin Shan, we got **Hill Pigeon**, **Crag Martin**. The other birds of the day: Little Egret, Spotted Dove, Himalayan's Swiftlet, Barn Swallow, Red-rumped Swallow, Grey Wagtail, Long-tailed Minivet, Brown Breasted Bulbul, Chinese Bulbul, Winter Wren, **Rufous-breasted Accentor**, **Orange-flanked Bush Robin**, Plumbeous Water Redstart, White-bellied Redstart, Oriental Magpie Robin, Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler, Chestnut-crowned Warbler, Kloss's Leaf Warbler, Greenish Warbler, Buff-barred Warbler, Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher, Rufous-Capped Babbler, Elliot's Laughingthrush, Red-billed Leiothrix, **Rufous-vented Tit**, **Grey-backed Shrike**, Crested Myna, Grey-capped Greenfinch, **Chinese White-browed Rosefinch**, Yellow-throated Bunting.





hill pigeon
Summer Wong



lammergeier
Summer Wong



daurian redstart
Andreas Uppstu

Day 5, 12th June

Started in the very early morning for Wood Snipe. About 10 minutes after arrived there, heard it flying above head, but the fog was too heavy to see anything through the cloud, and unfortunately this heavy foggy weather lasted for the whole day for the Balangshan both sides! We searched for the flying Wood Snipe for half hour, and eventually it landed somewhere on the slope, Andreas, Gustaf, Antero, Annika and I climbed up the mountain try to find it on the slope, searched on the slope for one hours but didn't find it. When we started to go down we heard Chinese Monal was calling down the mountain, so went down to the road search for monal. Jarmo told us he saw a few female Chinese Monal on the road side when we were up on the mountain, so we searched along where he got the monal, and eventually we got a female **Chinese Monal** calling very loudly along

the road side for long time, and we were lucky to have a moment without the cloud and took photos of it! Just when we were curious about why it stayed there and kept calling for such a long time, a chick flew down from the up side slope crossing the road! What a mom! Then we carried on for other birds, we got 2 **Wallcreepers** nesting on the rock! Very close view but too foggy to take good photos, other birds there are **Common Rosefinch**, **Dark-breasted Rosefinch**, White-browed Rosefinch, Blue-fronted Redstart, White-capped Water Redstart, then we went down to my usual place for breakfast and waited there for Koklass Pheasant, Chestnut-throated Partridge, we heard these two birds but never have a chance to see them through the heavy fog! The White-eared Pheasant we didn't even hear it. After breakfast we decided not to wait too much time there as the fog was so heavy, so we went up to the top for other birds, there we got a male **Grandala**, male **Red-fronted Rosefinch**, **Alpine Accentor**, Rufous-breasted Accentor, after passing the top, on the other side we got **Brandt's Mountain Finch**, Plain Mountain Finch. As both sides of the mountain were very foggy, we had to keep looking for any less foggy place, when we drove back to the top, we got male and female Grandala there, Annika and Andreas climbing to the up slope for better photos waited there for nearly one hour for a chance with less fog, and they eventually got very close view of the Grandalas and **Streaked Rosefinch** but a little bit foggy. Then we headed down got another male Red-fronted Rosefinch on the fence. We arrived at a usual place for Firethroat, had lunch there, and kept searching for Firethroat, we heard at least 3 of them singing in the bushes from different directions in the middle of the slope above us, we tried to attract it by playing the tape but they were not interested in the tape at all, wouldn't get any closer, so we tried to get closer to them, but when we were about 10 meters close to it, it shut up, kept silent. There we got a **Golden Eagle** perched on a big pine tree in distance, and clients got a **Sharpe's Rosefinch(Spot-winged Rosefinch)** when I was cooking the lunch. After lunch we went into a little trail used to produced Firethroat, White-browed Bush Robin, Scaly Thrush, Temminck's Tragopan, Blood Pheasant, Golden Pheasant, and Chinese Fulvetta, but we eventually only get **Chinese Fulvetta** there, heard Golden Pheasant very close somewhere in the high bushes but unable to see through them. White-browed Bush Robin also kept calling in the bushes in distance. On the way back to Rilong, in the bus I spotted a **Giant Laughingthrush** in distance, the only one in the day, as in last trip with BirdtourAsia we didn't get any Giant Laughingthrush in Balangshan, I always kept in mind to find it as I know it wouldn't be so easy in this year, it is kind of strange, rare Giant Laughingthrush this year, in last few years there were so many of them in Balangshan, even noisy sometimes. Other birds of the day: Lammergeier, Himalayan Griffon, **Red-collared Dove**, Crimson-breasted Woodpecker, Asian House Martin, Olive-backed Pipit, **Rosy Pipit**, Long-tailed Minivet, Winter Wren, Orange-flanked Bush Robin, **Chestnut Thrush**, **Kessler's Thrush**, Bianchi's Warbler, Claudia's Warbler, Greenish Warbler, Large-billed Leaf Warbler, Buff-barred Warbler, Sichuan Leaf Warbler, Elliot's Laughingthrush, White-collared Yuhina, Rufous-vented Tit, **Coal Tit**, Mrs Gould's Sunbird, Grey-backed Shrike, Red-billed Chough, **Large-billed Crow**. Heard Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler, Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler, Collared Grosbeak.



common rosefinch
Summer Wong



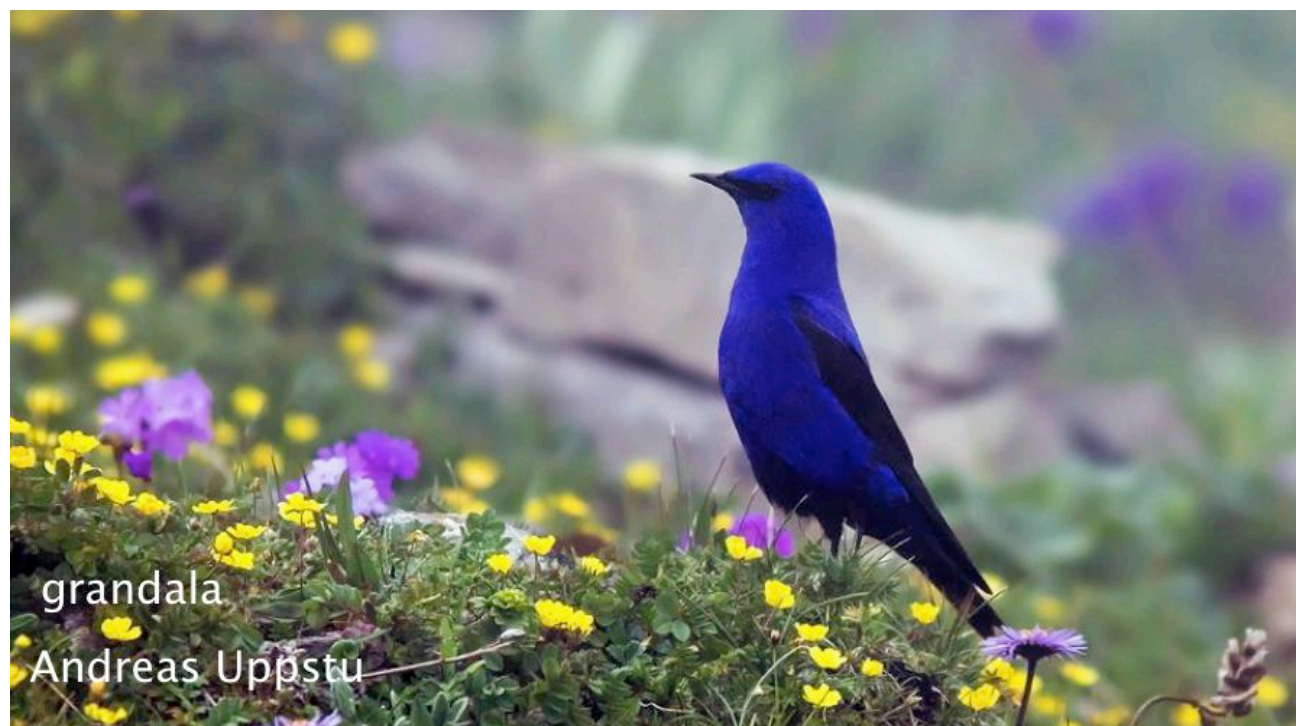
dark-breasted rosefinch
Summer Wong



red collared dove
Summer Wong



rufous-breasted accentor
Summer Wong



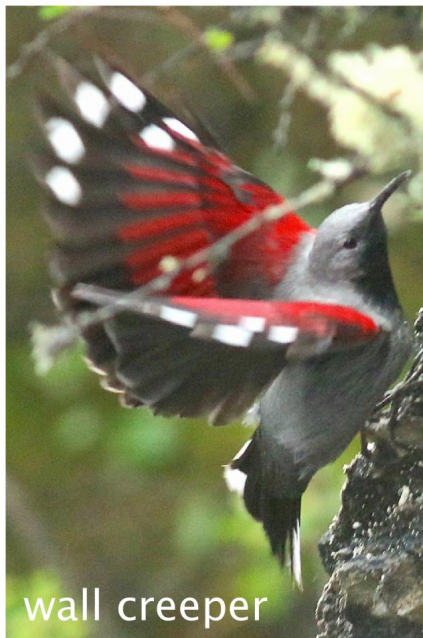
grandala
Andreas Uppstu



streaked rosefinch
Andreas Uppstu



fe. chinese monal
Summer Wong



wall creeper



Summer Wong

Day 6, 13th June

As clients thought heard Wood Snipe is good enough for them, so today we didn't try as early as yesterday for it, started a little bit later for partridges. When we arrived at the top, we stopped there and kept listening to any sound of partridges, and heard one, so we followed it down to a slope, but eventually it didn't show to us, as to my experience foggy weather in the morning is very good for partridges and snowcocks to walk along the main road, so we decided to keep going down to check them on the way. And just as we expected we got a **Tibetan Snowcock** walking on the concrete fence!!! We stopped the bus and took photo of it from the bus, it just kept walking on the fence without noticing us, beside it a male Red-fronted Rosefinch walking along the fence too! There were a few Red-fronted Rosefinch and very active at that time kept singing all the time, after the Tibetan Snowcock dropped down we focused on the male Red-fronted Rosefinch, very close to us! Just as we finished the rosefinch, we heard **Snow Partridges** calling from the mountain, I followed the sound and spotted 2 of them walking down from the top of the mountain getting close to a couple of yaks! We spend most of the morning on Balangshan side closer to Wolong, foggy for the whole day on this side, at noon we drove back to the top, sunny on the other side! We got another good view of a pair of Red-fronted Rosefinch. Then we went down to Maobiliang for lunch there we can check other good birds, like Crested Tit Warbler, White-cheeked Nuthatch, Blood Pheasant, but as in the middle of the day, the weather on that side is too hot and sunny, and lots of local people gathered there selling fruits, nuts and medicines very noisy in that spot, unexpectedly we got a **Slaty-blue Flycatcher**. After lunch we drove up to Wolong side and birding on the way, in the late afternoon we arrived at Lamasi temple checking for Golden Pheasant and Slaty Bunting. There we got **Speckled Wood Pigeon, Chinese Babax, Spotted Nutcracker**. For Golden Pheasant we tried 2 places in this day, but didn't get it, can only expect for it the next day on the little trail to Wuyipeng in the early morning and also Slaty Bunting is possible there. The other birds of the day: **Chinese Pond Heron**, Lammergeier, Himalayan Griffon, Common Buzzard, Golden Eagle, Hill Pigeon,, Asian House Martin, Olive-backed Pipit, Rosy Pipit, Winter Wren, Rufous-breasted Accentor, Alpine Accentor, Blue-fronted Redstart, Plumbeous Water Redstart, White-capped Water Redstart, Grandala, Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler, Chestnut Thrush, Grey-crowned Warbler, Bianchi's Warbler, Martin's Warbler, Claudia's Warbler, Greenish Warbler, Large-billed Leaf Warbler, Buff-barred Warbler, Sichuan Leaf Warbler, **Alpine Leaf Warbler**, Giant Laughingthrush, Elliot's Laughingthrush, Chinese Fulvetta, White-collared Yunhina, Yellow-bellied Tit, Wallcreeper, Grey-backed Shrike, Red-billed Blue Magpie, **Yellow-billed Chough**, Red-billed Chough, Large-billed Crow, Plain Mountain Finch, Brandt's Mountain Finch, Dark-breasted Rosefinch, Common Rosefinch, Chinese White-browed Rosefinch, Streaked Rosefinch, Red-fronted Rosefinch. Heard Chestnut-throated Partridge, Koklass Pheasant, Golden Pheasant, Chinese Monal, Firethroat, White-browed Bush Robin, Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler, Slaty-backed Flycatcher.



tibetan snowcock
Summer Wong



spotted nutcracker
Summer Wong



red-fronted rosefinch
Summer Wong

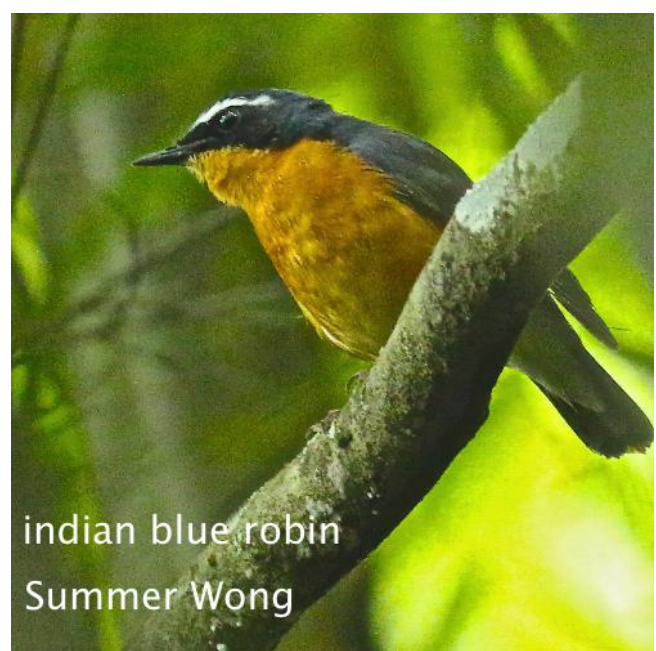


fe. red-fronted rosefinch
Summer Wong

Day 7, 14th June

Plan for this day is spending the whole day in Wuyipeng, as to my experience it's possible to see our target bird Golden Pheasant on the very narrow trail in the morning, so we decided clients first, I will be the last one in line, so that clients will have more chance to get a better view of Golden Pheasant on the way up. Before we started climbing, at the foot of the mountain, we tried at the spot where I had found a female Slaty Bunting last year, and by hard searching finally I spotted a female **Slaty Bunting** on the ground, very hard to get it, as it's brown color very similar to the earth and it's just quietly walking through the grass, when I spotted it, mostly because the grass movement attracted me first then I noticed the bird under it! Very shy bird, hard to spot it in the dense tree leaves and grass! Clients informed but hard to get it again, eventually Annika and Gustaf didn't get it on this spot. As Jarmo would like to stay at the foot of the mountain, others walking up in line as we planned, I stayed at the last one in line. And on the trail **Golden Pheasant** just as we expected walking on the trail in front of our line, a beautiful male one, Annika was the first one, so she had the best view and photographed it! This morning had 2 male Golden

Pheasants on the way up in 2 different times! On the way up we heard Firethroat first then searching for it by the sound, but really hard to get it as it's always hiding, but anyway better than in Balangshan, this **Firethroat** was interested in our tape, eventually we got it! But Andreas didn't get a good view of it just a glimpse of its movement, so need to find it for him somewhere else, expecting another one on the way up. On that little trail a smart **Indian Blue Robin** showed to us in the dense trees, but never showed in open area. But while I did a toilet stop far behind clients, I got a great chance for that smart bird! It showed to me on an open branch beside the trail singing there at least one minute, got it by camera! Other lovely bird showed very well to me is a Golden-breasted Fulvetta, got it by camera too! After the climbing part, on the flat trail, we got **Sooty Tit** on a flock of small birds, and **White-backed Woodpecker**, Crimson-breasted Woodpecker digging on a dead trunk. There we got our second chance for Firethroat, heard it first, then attracted by the tape, this time showed very well to us, at the beginning, Andreas got the best view of it! Then we try to get it better view for photographing, lucky for us, Firethroat in that area still very active and interested in the tape. Finally Andreas got the best photo of it! Near to the research station, we got a female **Temminck's Tragopan**! It was on the up slope very close to the trail, noticed our coming then it ran up, out of our expectation so easy to get it on the trail! Beside the research station, a pair of **Grey-capped Bullfinch** were spotted. Other birds of the day: Cattle Egret, Chinese Pond Heron, Lammergeier, Himalayan Griffon, Besra, **Crested Goshawk**, Crimson-breasted Woodpecker, Olive-backed Pipit, Grey Wagtail, White Wagtail, Long-tailed Minivet, White-browed Bush Robin, Blue Whistling Thrush, Chestnut Thrush, Chestnut-headed Tasia, Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler, Aberrant Bush Warbler, Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler, Marten's Warbler, Bianchi's Warbler, Claudia's Warbler, Large-billed Leaf Warbler, Sichuan Leaf Warbler, Slaty-backed Flycatcher, Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher, **Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler**, Rufous-capped Babbler, Three-toed Parrotbill, Chinese Babax, **Barred Laughingthrush**, Elliot's Laughingthrush, Red-winged Laughingthrush, Golden-breasted Fulvetta, White-collared Yuhina, Yellow-browed Tit, Yellow-bellied Tit, Green-backed Tit, Mrs Gould's Sunbird, Grey-backed Shrike, Red-billed Blue Magpie, Spotted Nutcracker, Common Rosefinch, Vinaceous Rosefinch.





sooty tit
Summer Wong



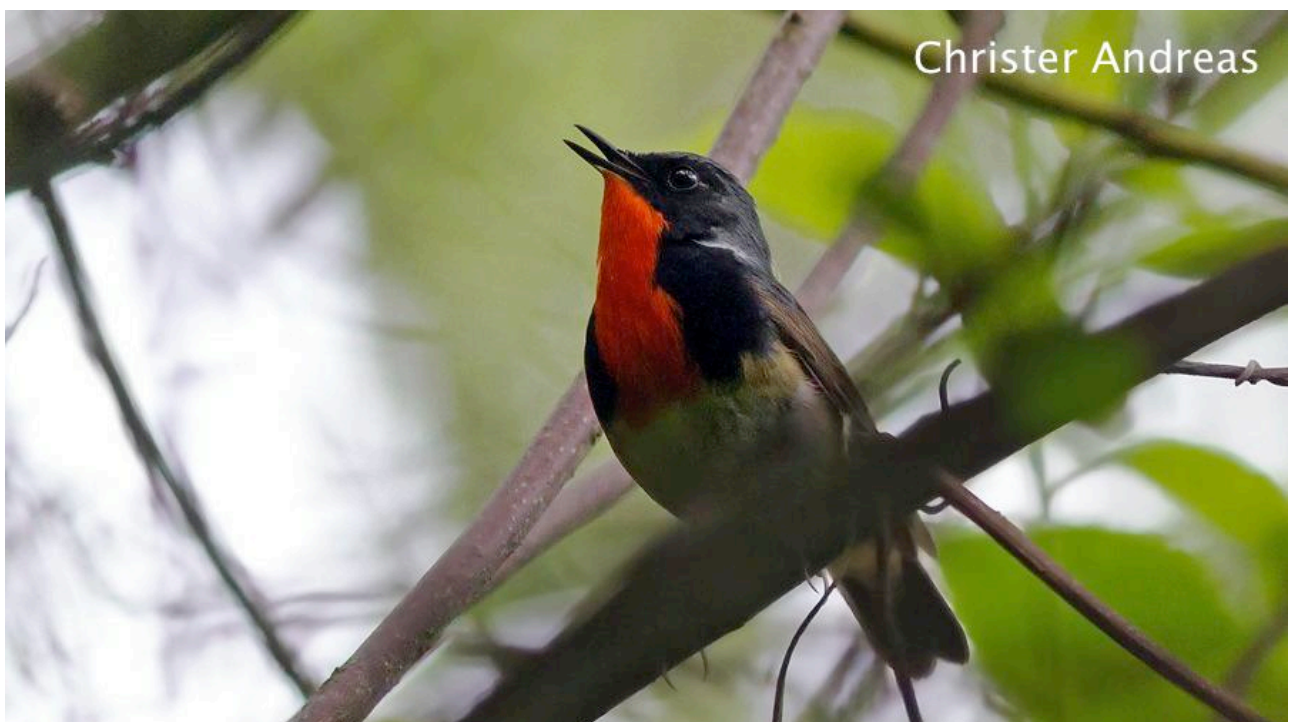
scaly-breasted wren babler
Andreas Uppstu



barred laughingthrush
Summer Wong



grey-headed bullfinch
Summer Wong



Christer Andreas

Day 8 , 15th June

This is an extra day for Balangshan as we saved one day by cutting off Erlangshan, the weather was cloudy again, for the weather part, we were really unlucky with it in Balangshan, heavy fog everyday! In the fog we still got many good species, **White-eared Pheasant** eventually showed in the regular spots, when we arrived there, they were walking up on the slope, as they noticed us then walked faster. Just after the White-eared Pheasant, **Collared Grosbeak** perched on a pine tree beside us, give a very good view to us! As most of the mountain was covered by the heavy fog, we had to find some light fog area, then we had a chance to find birds! In such condition we got **Sharpe's Rosefinch (Spot-winged Rosefinch)**, a pair of **Crimson-browed Rosefinch**, **Spotted Bush Warbler**, **Grey-sided Bush Warbler**, **Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler**, **Snow Pigeon** in flying, **Blood Pheasant** calling at the root of bushes on the up slope, got Giant Laughingthrush, Wallcreeper again. On the Rilong side the fog there much lighter than Wolong side, we got **White-tailed Rubythroat**, **Sichuan Tit**, **Hume's Leaf Warbler** there.





grey-sided bush warbler
Summer Wong



fe, white-tailed rubythroat
Summer Wong

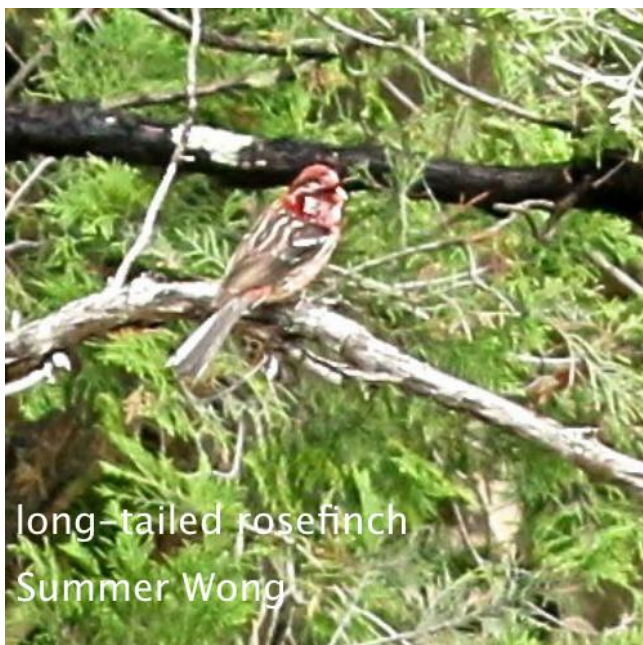


white-tailed rubythroat
Summer Wong

Day 9, 16th June

Today's plan is birding in Balangshan again in the early morning first, then headed to Maerkang and birding on the way. In Balangshan, we got our first view of **Grey-crested Tit**, **Goldcrest**, **Black-browed Tit**, got **Sichuan Tit**, **Giant Laughingthrush** again and much better and closer view. On the way to Maerkang we got some fresh local fruits, cherry, plum, apple and nectarine. The pretty **Long-tailed Rosefinch** took me pretty much time to get it out for clients when they almost gave up! The other birds we got there are Blue-rock Thrush high up on the rock! Chinese Pond Heron, Hill Pigeon, Crag Martin, Eurasian Jay, first view of **Hodgson's Redstart**. We arrived at Mengbishi at around 2 pm, we still have time birding there, as to my experience in June, the Sichuan Jay could be very quite popping in the trees or flying across the valley above the pine trees without any sound, will be a very hard bird! So I suggested to focus on searching the Jay

first. But actually I didn't have much expectation for it in this afternoon, but Jarmo spotted a very quite **Sichuan Jay** popping up a pine tree! What a spot! We watched it popping up to the top of the tree flew shortly to another tree then drop down to the bottom of the valley, disappeared, but we were so happy and excited about it! There we also got **White-winged Grosbeak**, **Hodgson's Treecreeper**.





white-winged grosbeak
Summer Wong



fe. white-winged grosbeak
Summer Wong



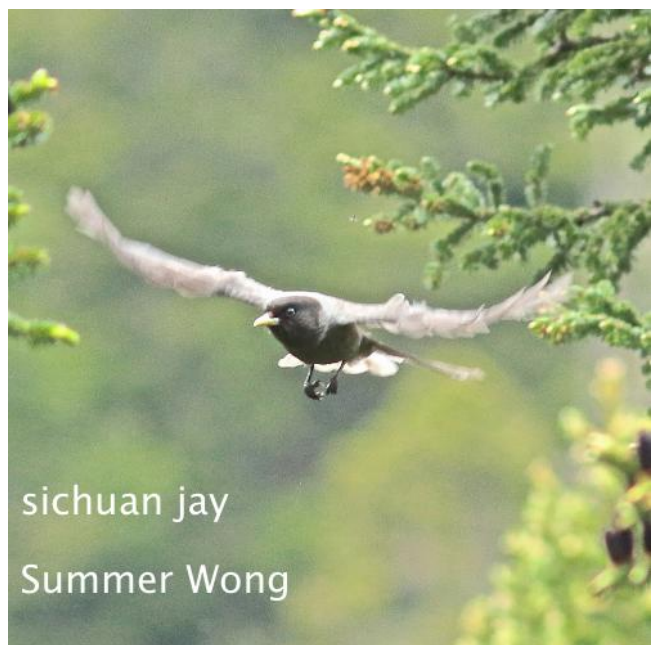
blue rock thrush
Summer Wong



winter wren
Summer Wong



sichuan jay
Summer Wong



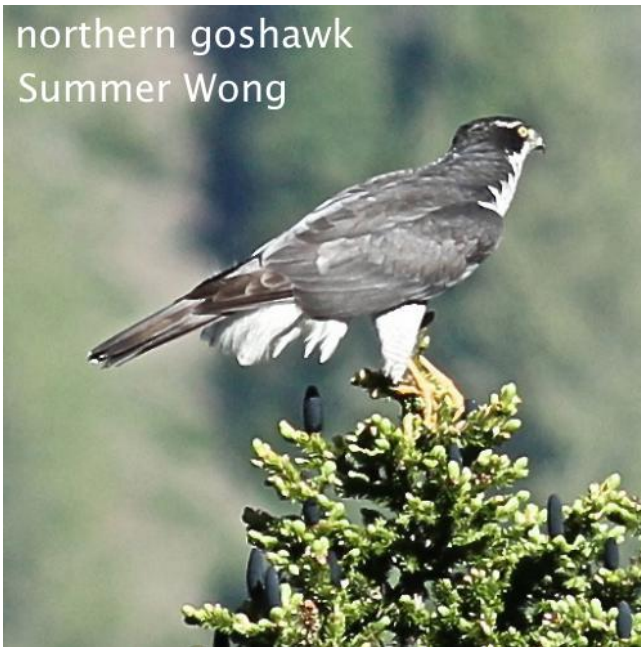
sichuan jay
Summer Wong



Day 10, 17th June

Today's highlight definitely will be the **Verreaux's Monal Partridge**! In the early morning we tried the Monal Partridge first, but only heard two groups calling on the up valley slopes, never came closer down to us to give a show, so we then focus on the small birds, planned to try for the partridge again in the late afternoon, after we birding in the up area got our first view of **Tibetan Siskin, Pink-rumped Rosefinch, Northern Goshawk, Oriental Turtle Dove** and another view of Goldcrest, Giant Laughingthrush, a pair of Crimson-browed Rosefinch, Kessler's Thrush, Collared Grosbeak, Winter Wren, Alpine Leaf Warbler, White-eared Pheasant on a far distance grass near to the top a mountain, around 2:30pm, I suggested to go down to the lower area to look for Three-banded Rosefinch and Crested Tit Warbler then in the late afternoon to try for the partridge, the things happened next made it a very lucky day made up the unlucky morning! When we drove down to the lower area, 3 **Verreaux's Monal Partridges** on the right road side! Our experienced driver stopped the coach immediately, but the partridges still scared, and drop down the road into the woods, we stayed in the coach waited for them to show again beside the coach, but for a while, they didn't show, I was wondering about the back of the coach then I looked back: a partridge was crossing and flew to the up slope! I shouted in low but excited voice : in the back! I immediately decide to go out the coach, and waited on the other side of the road for the other calling partridges down the slope to cross the road to join the one which just flew up the up slope, they were both calling to each other to get together, its our best chance! And we got it! It turned out to be the best picture of Verreaux's Monal Partridge!

northern goshawk
Summer Wong



pink-rumped rosefinch
Summer Wong



chestnut-throated partridge
Andreas Uppstu

Day 11, 18th June

Today's plan is birding on the way from Maerkang to Ruorgai, we started early try to arrive at the Tibetan Partridge place as early as possible but this plan destroyed by an landslide around 70kms out of Maerkang, we stuck up there for 2 hours, we had breakfast in a tibetan yak farm where we got homemade yummy yak yoghourt! With our honey it is became a highlight of the day! Along the way we got just as we expected **Black-eared Kite, Dusky Warbler, Plain Laughingthrush, Upland Buzzard, White-browed Tit Warbler, Azure-winged Magpie, Twite, Citrine Wagtail, Horned Lark**. For the Tibetan Partridge, we arrived there where the first time I found it in last year at around 11:30, but this time we searched for it 2 hours there but in vain. Then we had yummy dumpling lunch in Hongyuan. Started from Hongyuan we got **Black-necked Crane**, we counted along the way until Ruorgai, we got 64 in total! And 1 **Common Crane, Common Tern, Common Hoopoe, Ground Tit, Black Redstart, White-browed Tit, Tibetan Snowfinch, Horned Lark,**

White-rumped Snowfinch, at least 7 **Little Owl**, **Brown-headed Gull** near our hotel, and our expected **Pink-tailed Bunting** took us some hiking and searching and finally got it!





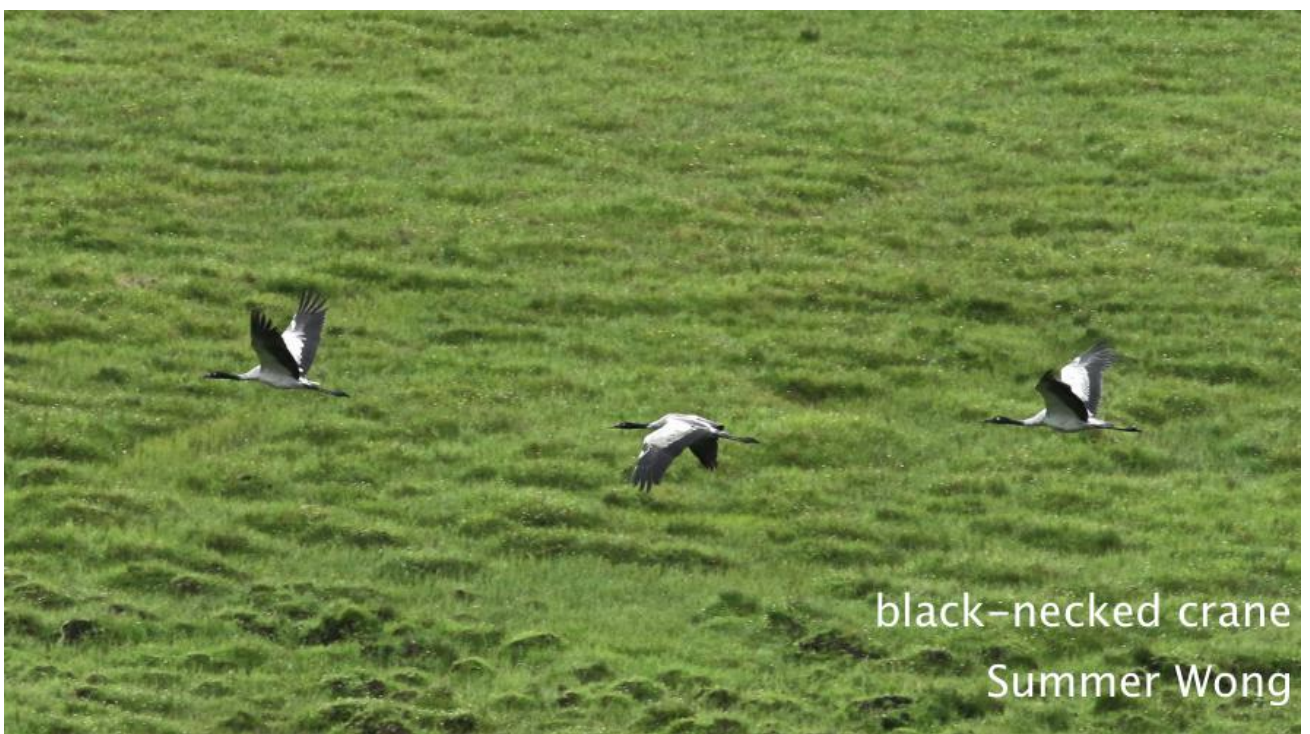
pink-tailed bunting
Summer Wong



pink-tailed bunting
Summer Wong



fe. white-browed tit warbler
Summer Wong



black-necked crane
Summer Wong

Day 12, 19th June

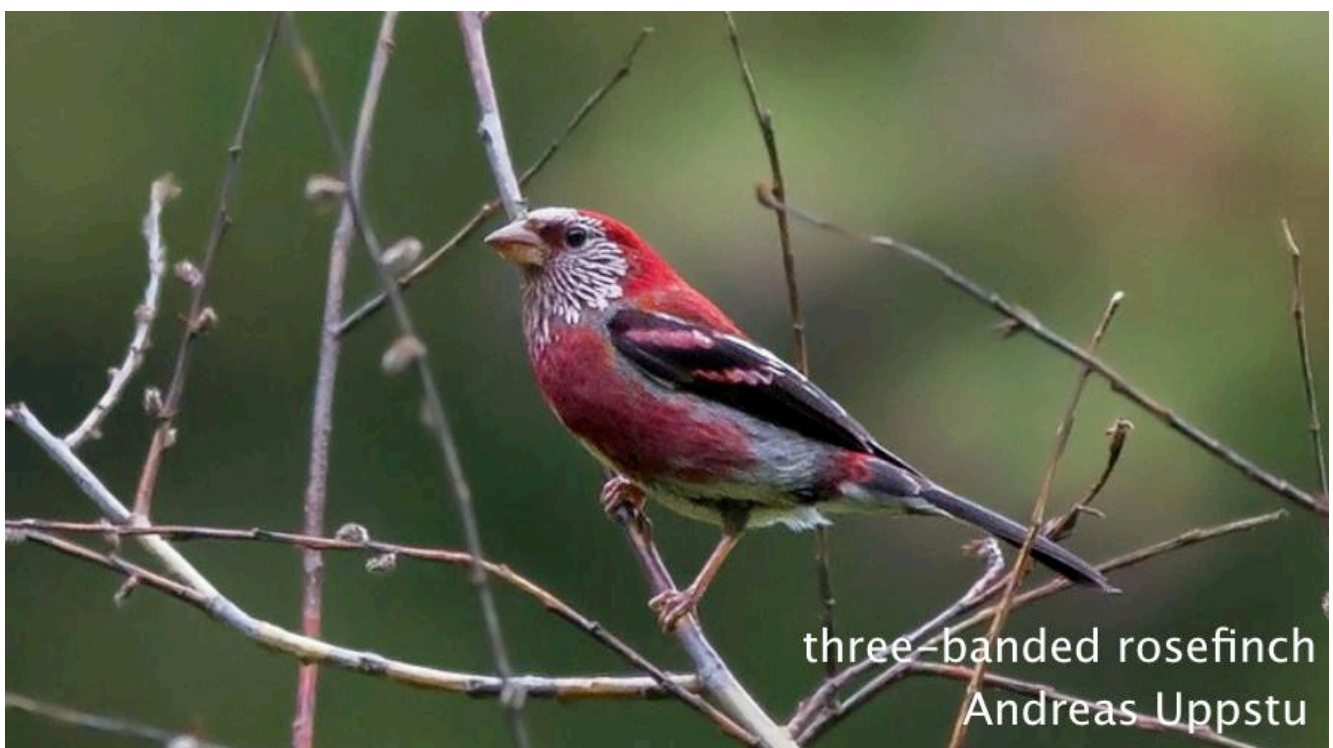
Early in the morning headed to Baxi Forest, just after 2 minutes after we arrived there, we got **Blue-eared Pheasant** at the usual place! In the conifer forest we got male and female **Three-banded Rosefinches**, **White-cheeked Nuthatch**, **Snowy-cheeked Laughingthrush**, Northern Goshawk, **Yellow-streaked Warbler**, Sichuan Tit, Orange-flanked Bluetail, **Slaty-backed Flycatcher**, Grey-crested Tit, Goldcrest, **White-throated Redstart**, all had very good view in bins, especially the Three-banded Rosefinch, 2 female perched on the top of pine trees, a male stopped by a high bushes, and perched there too, Andreas got very good photos of the male! Our last stop on the way is the **Chinese Grey Shrike** place, and got it! Then we headed to Flower Lake for water birds, on the way we got Black-necked Crane, Upland Buzzard again, near the Flower Lake, we got **Tibetan Lark**, Horned Lark, **Pale Martin**, White-rumped Snowfinch, **Rufous-necked Snowfinch**, **Saker Falcon** on flying, in the Flower Lake we got Common Tern, **White-winged Tern**, **Common Redshank**, **Wood Sandpiper**, **Common Moorhen**, **Eurasian Coot**, etc.



fe. three-banded rosefinch
Summer Wong



white-throated redstart
Summer Wong



three-banded rosefinch
Andreas Uppstu



chinese grey shrike
Andreas Uppstu



horned lark
Summer Wong



rufous-necked snowfinch
Summer Wong



saker falcon
Summer Wong



tibetan lark
Summer Wong



Day 13, 20th June

This morning we focused on Chinese Grouse, in our first grouse place, only Andreas and Andero who were in front of the line got glimpse of **Chinese Grouse**, then we searched in the conifer forest for more than one hour, didn't see them again, so we tried another valley to search for it, and got 2 **Chinese Grouses** on the grass but they ran into the bushes too fast to take photo! Then we headed to Jiuzhaigou, on the way we got Common Pheasant, both male and female on the grass, stopped for **Siberian Rubythroat**, and got one singing in the bushes. In Gongangling Forest we

got **Maroon-backed Accentor**, White-bellied Redstart, Tibetan Siskin, Blood Pheasant, Alpine Leaf Warbler, Rufous-vented Tit.



Day 14, 21st June

Today's plan is to birding inside the Jiuzhaigou National Park, caught up the earliest bus into the park, then took the park staff's bus to the Robin place which usually not allowed to take tourists, I need to talk with the manager who is in charge of the buses arranging. So when we arrived at the robin place at around 8:00 am, we were the only tourists in that valley. We heard the Rufous-headed Robin, but it was so smart hiding in the bushes, never got a chance to see it, even though we were so close to it! After one and half hour searching, then we focus on the other birds, we got **Chinese Nuthatch**, **Pere David's Tit (Rusty-breasted Tit)**, **Chestnut-flanked White-eye**, **Eurasian Nuthatch**, Common Hoopoe, Northern Goshawk, Slaty-backed Flycatcher, Indian Blue Robin, Common Pheasant. Had lunch in the junction place then we headed back to the gate, we got **Spectacled Parrotbill**, **Fujian Niltava**, a male **Slaty Bunting**, Yellow-bellied Tit, etc.





fujian niltava
Summer Wong



slaty bunting
Summer Wong



spectacled parrotbill
Summer Wong



northern goshawk
Summer Wong

Day 15, 22nd June

A whole day birding in the Gonggangling Forest, there we got **Hodgson's Treecreeper**, Tibetan Siskin, **Crested Tit Warbler** which took us such a long time to finally got it in the pine trees! White-cheeked Nuthatch, Spotted Bush Warbler, White-bellied Redstart, Goldcrest, Maroon-backed Accentor, Siberian Rubythroat again. Gustaf hiked alone to the top of a mountain he got a feather of Blue-eared Pheasant nice and unique decoration for his hat! On the way down to the hotel we got **Spectacled Fulvetta**.



Summer Wong



white-bellied redstart
Summer Wong



goldcrest
Summer Wong



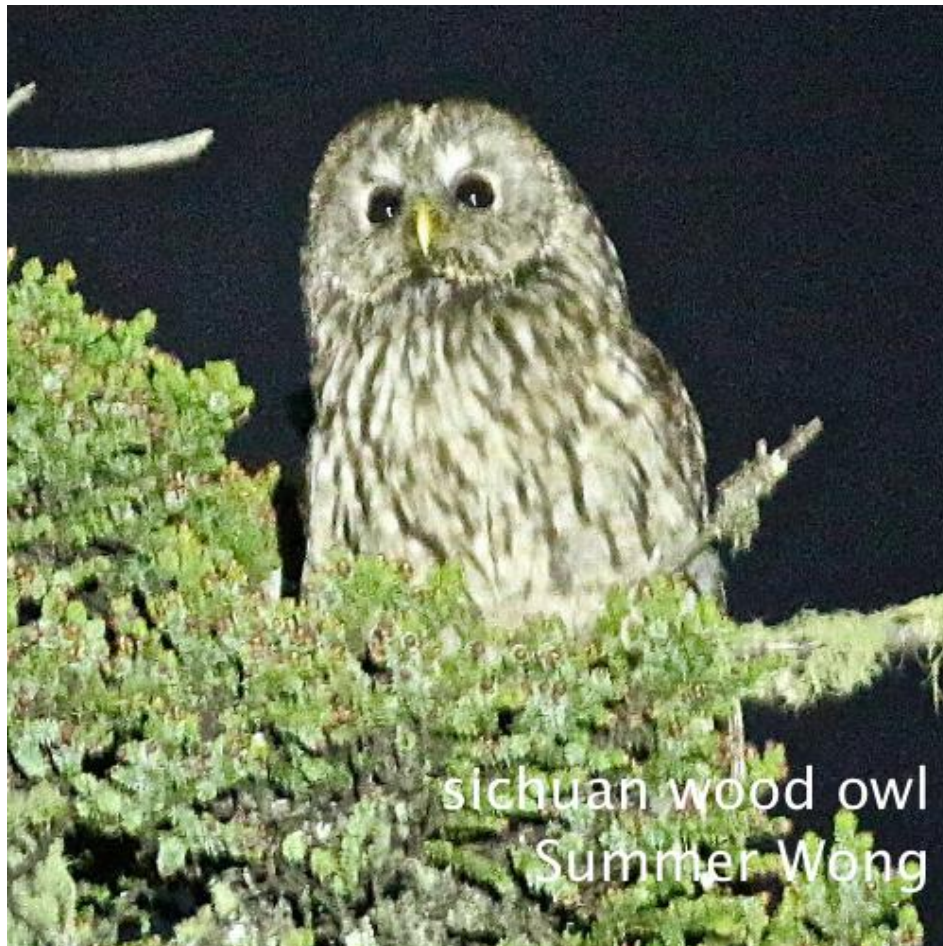
spotted bush warbler
Summer Wong



spectacled fulvetta
Summer Wong

Day 16, 23rd June

Woke up in the middle of the night in order to look for the Sichuan Wood Owl (Pere David's Owl), we arrived at Gongganling Forest at around 4:30am, still totally dark, after around half hour waiting, the **Sichuan Wood Owl** came closer to the top and calling, we got it! When light came out we got Three-banded Rosefinch, Tibetan Siskin again, on the way back to Chengdu, we got **Godlewski's Bunting**, Grey-headed Bullfinch.



2014 8th June- 23rd June Sichuan Bird Tour Check List

Great Crested Grebe

Black-crowned Night Heron

Eastern Cattle Egret

Chinese Pond Heron

Little Egret

Grey Heron

Eurasian Spoonbill

Greylag Goose

Ruddy Shelduck

Mallard Anas

Gadwall

Ferruginous Duck

Common Pochard

Red-crested Pochard

Crested Honey Buzzard (Oriental H B)

Black-eared Kite

Lammergeier

Cinereous Vulture

Himalayan Griffon Vulture (H Griffon)

Northern Goshawk

Besra

Eurasian Sparrowhawk

Crested Goshawk

Upland Buzzard

Golden Eagle

Mountain Hawk Eagle

Common Kestrel

Saker Falcon

Severtzov's Grouse

Snow Partridge

Verreaux's Monal Partridge (Chestnut-throated P)

Tibetan Snowcock

Chinese Bamboo Partridge

Blood Pheasant

Temminck's Tragopan

Koklass Pheasant

Chinese Monal

White Eared Pheasant

Blue Eared Pheasant

Common Pheasant

Golden Pheasant

Lady Amherst's Pheasant

Common Moorhen

Eurasian Coot

Black-necked Crane

Common Crane

Northern Lapwing

Wood Snipe

Common Redshank

Wood Sandpiper

Brown-headed Gull

Whiskered Tern

White-winged Tern

Common Tern

Rock Dove (R Pigeon)

Hill Pigeon

Snow Pigeon

Speckled Wood Pigeon

Collared Dove

Red Turtle Dove (R Collared D)

Oriental Turtle Dove (Rufous T D)

Spotted Dove

Large Hawk Cuckoo

Indian Cuckoo

Common Cuckoo (Eurasian C)

Himalayan Cuckoo

Lesser Cuckoo

Common Koel (Asian K)

Pere David's Owl

Little Owl

Grey Nightjar

Himalayan Swiftlet

White-throated Needletail

Salim Ali's Swift

House Swift

Black-capped Kingfisher

Common Kingfisher

Eurasian Hoopoe

Speckled Piculet

Black Woodpecker

Darjeeling Woodpecker

Crimson-breasted Woodpecker

White-backed Woodpecker

Bay Woodpecker

Tibetan Lark (Long-billed Calandra L)

Oriental Skylark

Horned Lark (Shore L)

Pale Martin

Eurasian Crag Martin (Mountain C M)

Barn Swallow

Red-rumped Swallow

Asian House Martin

Olive-backed Pipit (O Tree P)

Rosy Pipit

Forest Wagtail

Citrine Wagtail (Yellow-hooded W)

Grey Wagtail

Himalayan Wagtail

Long-tailed Minivet

Collared Finchbill (C Finch-billed Bulbul)

Brown-breasted Bulbul

Chinese Bulbul (Light-vented B)

Himalayan Black Bulbul

Brown Dipper

Winter Wren (Northern W)

Maroon-backed Accentor

Rufous-breasted Accentor

Alpine Accentor

White-browed Shortwing

Siberian Rubythroat

White-tailed Rubythroat

Rufous-headed Robin (Heard Only)

Firethroat

Indian Blue Robin
Himalayan Red-flanked Bluetail
White-browed Bush Robin
Black Redstart
Hodgson's Redstart
Blue-fronted Redstart
White-throated Redstart
Daurian Redstart
Plumbeous Redstart
White-bellied Redstart
White-tailed Robin
White-capped Redstart (River R, River Chat)
Grandala
Siberian Stonechat
Oriental Magpie Robin

Blue Rock Thrush
Rufous-vented Rock Thrush
Blue Whistling Thrush
Long-tailed Thrush
Chinese Blackbird (Mandarin B)
Chestnut Thrush
Kessler's Thrush (White-backed T)
Chinese Song Thrush (Heard Only)

Chestnut-headed Tesia

Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler

Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler

Aberrant Bush Warbler

Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler

Grey-sided Bush Warbler

Spotted Bush Warbler

Brown Bush Warbler

Russet Bush Warbler

Baikal Bush Warbler (Heard Only)

Grey-crowned Warbler

Emei Spectacled Warbler (Marten's W)

Bianchi's Warbler

Chestnut-crowned Warbler

Rufous-faced Warbler

Kloss's Leaf Warbler

Claudia's Warbler

Emei Leaf Warbler

Greenish Warbler

Large-billed Leaf Warbler

Buff-barred Warbler

Sichuan Leaf Warbler

Chinese Leaf Warbler

Hume's Leaf Warbler

Yellow-streaked Warbler

Dusky Warbler

Alpine Leaf Warbler

Buff-throated Warbler

Goldcrest

Severtzov's Tit-Warbler (White-browed T-W)

Crested Tit-Warbler

Fujian Niltava

Chinese Blue Flycatcher

Verditer Flycatcher

Ferrugineus Flycatcher

Dark-sided Flycatcher

Slaty-blue Flycatcher

Slaty-backed Flycatcher

Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher

Grey-headed Flycatcher (G-h Canary F)

Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler (Heard Only)

Scaly-breasted Wren-Babbler

Pygmy Wren-Babbler (Heard Only)

Rufous-capped Babbler

Great Parrotbill

Three-toed Parrotbill

Brown Parrotbill

Spectacled Parrotbill

Ashy-throated Parrotbill

Vinous-throated Parrotbill

Grey-hooded Parrotbill (Crested P)

Fulvous Parrotbill (Heard Only)

Golden Parrotbill

Chinese Babax

Père David's Laughingthrush (Plain L)

Sukatschev's Laughingthrush (Snowy-cheeked L)

Barred Laughingthrush

Giant Laughingthrush

White-browed Laughingthrush

Elliot's Laughingthrush

Red-winged Laughingthrush

Emei Shan Liocichla

Red-billed Leiothrix

Red-tailed Minla

Golden-breasted Fulvetta

Chinese Fulvetta

Spectacled Fulvetta

Grey-hooded Fulvetta (Streak-throated F)

Stripe-throated Yuhina

White-collared Yuhina

Sooty Tit (White-necklaced T)

Black-browed Tit

Yellow-browed Tit

White-browed Tit

Sichuan Tit

Père David's Tit (Rusty-breasted T)

Yellow-bellied Tit

Rufous-vented Tit

Coal Tit

Grey-crested Tit

Japanese Tit

Green-backed Tit

Groundpecker (Ground T)

Chinese Nuthatch (Snowy-browed N)

Przevalski's Nuthatch (Snowy-cheeked N)

Eurasian Nuthatch

Wallcreeper

Sichuan Treecreeper

Hodgson's Treecreeper

Fire-capped Tit

Gould's Sunbird (Mrs Gould's S)

Chestnut-flanked White-eye

Japanese White-eye

Black-naped Oriole

Tiger Shrike

Long-tailed Shrike

Grey-backed Shrike

Chinese Grey Shrike

Black Drongo

Hair-crested Drongo

Eurasian Jay

Sichuan Jay

Blue Magpie (Red-billed B M)

Azure-winged Magpie (Asian A-w M)

Eurasian Magpie

Spotted Nutcracker (Eurasian N)

Alpine Chough (Yellow-billed C)

Red-billed Chough

Daurian Jackdaw

Oriental Crow

Large-billed Crow

Common Raven

Red-billed Starling

White-cheeked Starling

Crested Myna

Russet Sparrow

Eurasian Tree Sparrow

Tibetan Snowfinch (Adam's S)

White-rumped Snowfinch

Rufous-necked Snowfinch

White-rumped Munia

Grey-capped Greenfinch

Tibetan Siskin

Twite

Plain Mountain Finch

Brandt's Mountain Finch

Dark-breasted Rosefinch

Common Rosefinch (Scarlet R)

Beautiful Rosefinch

Pink-rumped Rosefinch (Stresemann's R)

Vinaceous Rosefinch

Three-banded Rosefinch

Sharpe's Rosefinch (Spot-winged R)

Long-tailed Rosefinch

Chinese White-browed Rosefinch

Streaked Rosefinch (Eastern Great R)

Red-breasted Rosefinch (Red-fronted R)

Crimson-browed Finch

Grey-headed Bullfinch

Collared Grosbeak

White-winged Grosbeak

Przevalski's Pinktail (Pink-tailed Bunting)

Slaty Bunting

Godlewski's Bunting

Yellow-throated Bunting