

Tibet, the Tibetan plateau and Sichuan, China

5th July to 25th July 2017



Chinese (White-tailed) Rubythroat, Balangshan (Photo: ME).

Notes on birds by

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Introduction

Tibet is often called the “Roof of the World” and with good reason. The Tibetan Plateau stands over 5 km above the sea level and is surrounded by imposing mountain ranges that harbor the World’s two highest summits – Mount Everest and K2. Perhaps the most well-known person of the region is the Dalai Lama, Tibet’s spiritual leader and an advocate for a peaceful solution to Tibet’s bid for independence.

For some decades it has been a great wish for all of us to visit the very famous Potala in Lhasa – earlier home for Dalai Lama – so in 2017 it should be.

This report deals with a journey through Tibet including crossing the Tibetan Plateau with the Trans Tibetan Railway from Xining to Lhasa, birding a week in the neighborhood of Lhasa and ending with birding in Sichuan province of China between 5th – 25th July 2017 by a group of four Danish birdwatchers. We have all visited different parts of Asia and South-East Asia many times before – but this year we go for the heart – Lhasa in Tibet.

This trip was not easy and not cheap. A lot of troubles, delayed flights, a lot of police- and airport controls, stupid flights, altitude sickness and it took us four days after leaving Denmark before we finally reached Lhasa. We will probably not try to make birdwatching in 5.200 m above sea level again. We learned a lot about ourselves on this trip.

All of the possible endemic birds of Tibet were seen easily, the birding was excellent throughout the entire trip and 228 species were counted.

The flights and the program in Tibet was arranged by DaGama Travel, Copenhagen (<http://www.dagama.travel/>) including visa and permits to Tibet, and our time in Sichuan, China by our guide Summer Wong (<http://www.summerwongtours.com/>).

All the locations, tracks and trails in Tibet and Sichuan mentioned in this report are very well described in different report’s (www.cloudbirders.com) to which we refer. But we will however give some information about the locations in the neighborhood of Lhasa.

We can absolutely recommend a trip to both the autonomous region of Tibet and to Sichuan province, China, with the always friendly population in both areas, always helpful and smiling.

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Itinerary

5/7: Departure Copenhagen 9.35 with Swiss Airlines, arrival Zürich 11.30. Take off Zürich 13.15 and arrival

6/7: Beijing, China 5.15. Pick-up by our guide Zack and drive to our hotel, Novotel. Heavy rain all day, but we used the time to visit the Great Wall of China and Tiananmen in Beijing. Only few birds this day but we saw Azure-Winged Magpie and Chinese Blackbird.

7/7: Early up for check-in Beijing Airport for next flight 5.30 but it was very disappointing and frustrating that our flight for Xining was much delayed so we were waiting for many hours at the airport. Departure Beijing 14.00 and arrival at Xining 16.00. We spent a few hours in Xining before we got on the Trans-Tibetan Railway. Our Departure was 20.30 towards Golmud and later Lhasa. We had a 1st Class so called soft-sleeper compartment.



The Tibetan Plateau between Golmud and Lhasa (Photo: EVR).



the dining car at the trans-tibetan railway (Photo: EVR) and Hume's Groundpecker (Photo: ME).

8/7: Fantastic day on the Trans-Tibetan Railway crossing the Tibetan Plateau all day up to 5.200 m. It was magnificent and beautiful scenery with plains and mountains. We saw many mammals and birds from the train among others Bar-Headed Goose, Ruddy Shelduck, Black-Necked Cranes and Pallas's Gull. At 18.30 we arrived to Lhasa and by 20.00 we were finally at Tashitakge Hotel.

9/7: Culture and birding all day. We visited Drepung monastery, Sera monastery, Jokhang Temple, Norbulinka Park and Barkhor. Brown-cheeked Laughingthrush was fairly common at Drepung monastery.

10/7: Culture and birding all day. The high-light was of course Potala, the previous home for Dalai Lama.



Potala, Lhasa and Lhasa late afternoon (Photo: EVR).

11/7: Birding all day at Shugsep monastery (>4.000 m), Xiong Si valley and Lhasa River. The place was crawling with birds and in short time we'd picked up great views of Brown-Cheeked Laughingthrush, Godlewski's Bunting, Tibetan Blackbird and Hodgson's Redstart. On the wires above us Streaked Rosefinch sang, Giant Babax was seen well and properly in a little village in the valley. The new road saved us a steep hike. On our way up we saw the first Tibetan Eared Pheasant and we saw a few of them later. It is indeed a very beautiful bird endemic to Tibet. These stunning birds gave us some fantastic looks down to a few meters. Other birds we encountered here while enjoying the pheasants were at least 2 Brown Accentors, White-Winged Grosbeak, White-Throated Redstarts and many Hoopoes. Pink-Rumped and Streaked Rosefinches was numerous.

12/7: Lhasa old city all day, shopping, and relaxing for acclimate because of altitude sickness.



photos from Lhasa city (Photos: EVR).

13/7: Birding all day at Nam Tso Chukmo (4.700 m), Damxung and Largen La pass (5.190 m above sea level). Departure Lhasa 5.30 and back home at our hotel 21.15. It was a long day with a lot of headache because of the altitude. We took pills and drank a lot of water but it made little difference. Never mind - it was a fantastic and extraordinary day with so many good birds – Wallcreper, 40+ Humes Groundpecker, Tibetan Lark, Hume's Short-toed Lark, Tibetan -, White-Rumped– and Rufous-Necked Snowfinches and many others.

14/7: Birding all day at Lhasa. In the morning and before lunch we visited the fenced marsh area close to Potala – so called Lhalu Wetland National Wetland Reserve. Normally it is impossible to get in because it is a protected wetland but a relative to our guide Paul had the key – so we got in©. There were many birds and no people inside the fenced wetland. Among others we saw Little Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron,

Lesser Sand Plover, Mongolian Short-Toed Lark and very beautiful Citrine Wagtails. In the afternoon Lhasa River but only few birds there.

15/7: Birding all day again at Shugshep monastery, Xiong Si valley and Lhasa River. The access to the best birding area is very easy nowadays thanks to the recently built road that takes you straight to the door steps of the nunnery. Many of the same bird species we saw on the 11th were still there but we also added Golden Eagle, Wallcreeper, White-Browed Tit Warbler, 10+ Brown Accentors among others to our list.

16/7: All day Lhasa, shopping, eating, culture and relaxing with only little birding around in Lhasa.

17/7: We left Lhasa at 9.00 for Gonggar Airport with departure 11.55 with Southern China Airlines, arrival Chengdu 13.55. Then Pick-up and drive to our hotel to meet our new guide Summer Wong and participant Carlos Baron, Spain. We got a nice hot-pot in a little local restaurant nearby.

18/7: After check-out at our hotel in Chengdu we had a long drive for the next destination – Balangshan. We arrived in the afternoon and after a quick check-in at Erma Renjia Hostel we continued for Balangshan for birding the rest of the day. Among the high-lights we saw Speckled Wood Pigeon, Plain-Backed Thrush, White-Throated Restart, our first Grandala female, Giant Laughingthrush, Elliots Laughingthrush and Rosy Pipit.



Now it's time for a yak-snack ☺

19/7: Birding all day with departure 5.30 from our hostel at Balangshan. On the way up a female Koklass Pheasant with 2 barely fledged pulli were running at the road before sunrise. Next we stopped at “the tunnel” where we saw a lot of White Eared Pheasant’s but no Chinese Monal. Summer told us they were hiding in the scrub this time of the year. It was a very good day with remarkably good weather. We crossed

Balangshan Pass later and then birded both sides of the pass, where we found Snow Partridge, Tibetan Snowcock, Tibetan Partridge, Kessler's Thrush, White-Tailed Rubythroat and Grandala male. In the afternoon at lower level we found Blood Pheasant, Orange-Flanked Bluetail and a lot of warblers.



preparing for breakfast at sunrise, Balangshan (Photos: ME and EVR).

20/7: Woke up 4.30, departure 5.00 and drove directly to Balangshan again for Chinese Monal but with no luck. It was fine weather again today with sunshine, few clouds and relatively hot. Among the new tour species we heard Fujian Niltava, Yellowish-Bellied Bush Warbler, Japanese White-Eye and a beautiful Slaty Bunting male seen very well.

21/7: First some morning birding close to our hotel and we had a nice walk to a little temple near Rilong. Again beautiful weather and many birds – among others Golden Pheasant heard, Red-Billed Blue Magpie, Spotted Nutcracker, 30+ Long-Tailed Minivets, Daurian Redstart, Brown Bush-Warbler, Chinese Babax and Black-Streaked Scimitarbabbler. After the birding we drove to our new destination – Longcanggou. The time was limited but late afternoon birding gave us Lesser Cuckoo, White-Browed Laughingthrush, White-Collared Yuhina and Ashy-Throated Parrotbill.

22/7: Full-day birding at Longcanggou from 5.30 until 18.00 as usual. Many birds all day and among the best Summer Wong showed up was Great Parrotbill, Brown Parrotbill, Grey-Hooded Parrotbill, Golden Parrotbill and 6+ Vinaceous Rosefinches. We visited especially the higher parts of the mountain this day with a lot of walking.

23/7: Birding all day at Longcanggou with focus at the lower level. Many birds everywhere including no less than 14 Temmincks Tragopan's, Lady Amherst Pheasant, Darjeeling Woodpecker, White-Backed Woodpecker, White-Bellied Redstart, Spotted Laughingthrush, Red-Winged Laughingthrush, Emei Shan Liocichla, Red-Tailed Minla, Golden-Breasted Fulvetta and many other good birds.

24/7: We had only limited time for birdwatching this morning because Carlos had a flight 12.00 from Chengdu. But morning birding around the hotel and the nearby village rewarded us with Golden-Breasted Fulvetta, Black-Chinned Yuhina among others. We left the hotel approximately 9.00 for Chengdu with check-in at Chengdu Airport Hotel. In the afternoon we visited Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda for some hours until 18.00. The best birds there were Plain Prinia and Himalayan Cuckoo.



Giant Panda and Red Panda at Chengdu Research Base (Photos: ME).

25/7: Departure Chengdu 11.00 and arrival Hong Kong 13.15, departure 14.30 with Austrian Airlines with arrival Vienna 19.15 – back home in Copenhagen 22.05.

Logistics and accommodation

Beijing: Novotel Xinqiao hotel 4: <http://www.novotel.com/gb/hotel-3641-novotel-beijing-xinqiao/index.shtml>. Fine hotel and we can recommend it.

Lhasa: Tashitakge Hotel: <https://www.booking.com/hotel/cn/lhasa-babao.da.html?aid=313140;label=lhasa-babao->. Absolutely beautiful hotel in Tibetan style in the old city only a few steps from the old city center. Very good rooms but the breakfast could be much better. There are many small restaurants nearby where you can get lunch and dinner. It is not possible to get lunch and dinner at the hotel.

Chengdu 17/7: Superior Hotel no 297: <http://english.ctrip.com/hotels/chengdu-hotel-detail-6052538/superior-hotel/>. Fine tourist hotel in Chengdu.

Rilong: Erma Renjia Hostel: An ok small hostel and probably the best accommodation near Balangshan. You can have breakfast, lunch and dinner at the little restaurant next to the hostel but Chinese food only. Cold beers are possible☺.

Longcanggou: Hulin Hotel: www.flickr.com/photos/kittykat23ud/. It is probably a relatively new hotel with good rooms and a fine restaurant with Chinese food only. It is a fine place to stay with birding possibility outside and in the neighborhood. Absolutely recommendable.

Chengdu 24/7: Chengdu Airport Hotel: [https://www.booking.com/hotel/cn/chengdu-kong-gang-da.html?aid=313140;label=chengdu-kong-gang-](https://www.booking.com/hotel/cn/chengdu-kong-gang.da.html?aid=313140;label=chengdu-kong-gang-). It is a very fine tourist hotel close to the airport.

Guides

Culturel tour guide in Lhasa: Mr. Lobsang, phone 189-0891-2359. Magnificent guide with focus on the Tibetan culture and history. We can absolutely recommend Mr. Lobsang.

Guide in Sichuan: Summer Wong, Summer Wong Bird Tour: <http://www.summerwongtours.com/>, mail: summer@summerwongtours.com. Summer has been working for China Bird Tour for some years but three years ago she started her own business and since then she has had a lot to do. We can absolutely recommend Summer Wong as a guide for your trip to probably all parts of China – especially Sichuan. She is professional and with focus on bird calls and songs. She is also a sweet girl with both feet on the ground.

Summer Wong is also making food to you in the field with both breakfast and lunch, mostly noodles and eggs.



Summer Wong and her driver at the “kitchen” early morning (Photos: ME).

Getting around

Most birding sites are only reachable by car and since it is not possible to rent a car in China without a Chinese passport you need to have a driver and a guide with you. It is therefore not an option to rent a car yourself and drive around. Traffic signs are normally in both Chinese and English but only at the biggest cities and main roads and generally there are many good signs.

In Tibet it is more complicated because you have to know exactly where to go and when – every day. If you change your itinerary one day only you can have great trouble. Your itinerary has to be accepted by the Chinese authorities. Our Danish agent had a local company taking care of this. Example - if your itinerary says Lhasa it is not possible to go out of town. It is therefore very important to have a very detailed itinerary before you enter Tibet including name of driver, local guide and exactly accommodation.

Remark, that only very few people in China we met speak the English language so it is therefore important to have English and Chinese speaking guide or driver with you. It is a must.

Health and safety

We felt very safe during the entire trip and had no health issues except for a little altitude sickness in Tibet only. Our driver drove very safely. It is our impression and experience that all people in both Tibet and China are smiling and friendly and they will probably all help you if you have a problem. We got a very good impression of the Chinese people.

Visited localities:

Drepung Monastery

Drepung Monastery is easy to reach in Lhasa. Take a taxi from your hotel and it will take you approximately half an hour to reach Drepung. Here are normally many people who want to visit the monastery but in the adjoining forest there are some birds. We saw Grey-Backed Shrike, Hodgson’s Restart, Brown-Cheeked Laughingthrush and a lot of Hoopoes. You have to pay entrance-fee if you want to visit Drepung Monastery.



Drepung Monastery, Lhasa (Photos: EVR).

Norbulinka

Access is easy because it is situated near the center of Lhasa. You have to pay entrance fee to get into the park. Behind the monastery there is a huge park and the target-species there is Derbyan Parakeet which we after some time found in the back part of the park. We also found Tibetan Blackbird, Brown-Cheeked Laughingthrush and Plain Laughingthrush.



Derbyan Parakeet, Norbulinka (Photo: ME).

Shugsep monastery and Xiong Si valley

It is probably the best birding location near Lhasa. Our first real excursion out of Lhasa was to Shuksep Nunnery or Xiong Si as it is called in Chinese. The access to the best birding area is very easy nowadays

thanks to the recently built road that takes you straight to the doorstep of the nunnery. In this valley and area we had great views of the Tibetan endemics: Brown-Cheeked Laughingthrush, Tibetan Blackbird, Tibetan Giant Babax and Tibetan Eared Pheasant. We spent two whole days in this area and we found new birds all the time. Shugshep is simply a must when you visit Lhasa. Access: Go from Lhasa by car towards Gonggar Airport by the new fine paved road for approximately 45 min, and then turn left into the valley. First you will find cultivated land and later a little village. First stop here where there are a lot of birds.



Erik (left) and Mads, Tina and Birthe (right) at Shugsep Monastery (4.000 m) with Xiong Si valley, Lhasa River and Himalayas behind (Photos: BR and ME).



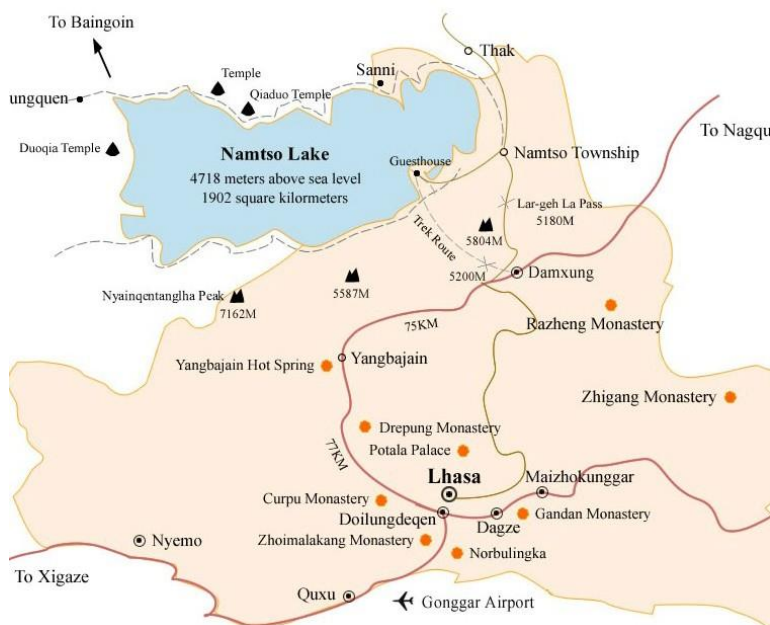
*Brown-cheeked Laughingthrush * (Photo: ME).*

Nam Tso Chukmo / Namtso Lake and Largen La pass

The 13th July was planned to go to Namtso Lake said to be the highest lake in the world at 4.700 m and Largen La pass. Departure from our hotel 5.30 and it took us 3-4 hours to reach the doorstep of Largen La pass. We used a lot of time in the valley first and saw some snowfinches, redstarts and rosefinches and an incredibly fine hunting Golden Eagle. Later we reached the pass at 5.190 m above sea level. Even after staying in Lhasa for some days at 3.600 m we all felt some altitude discomfort at different levels. It was cold and windy in the pass so we left after a short stop for Nam Tso Chukmo. We had a good time in the southern part at the lake and guesthouse including beautiful views of Hume's Groundpecker, Tibetan Lark, Hume's Short-toed Lark, Tibetan-, White-Rumped- and Rufous-Necked Snowfinch, Brown Accentor, Brandt's Mountainfinch and Streaked Rosefinch among others. Access: Very easy – you have to go by car from Lhasa to Damxung and then go left towards Nam Tso Chukmo – everything is well signed and by asphalted road all the way. Remark that you have to use 3-4 hours in a car without stops and the same number of hours when you return to Lhasa. We arrived in Lhasa again around 21.15.



The valley and plateau between Damxung and Namtso and Namtso Lake (Photos: EVR).

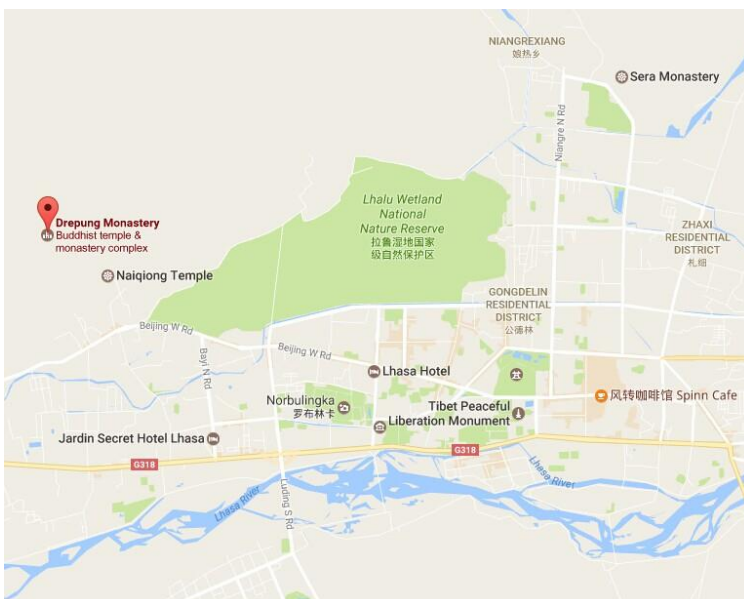




The Tibetan Plateau at Namtso Lake with Thakkungpa Ri Luggu mountain (6.110 m) behind (Photo: EVR).

Lhasa fenced marsh / or Lhalu Wetland National Nature Reserve

You will easily find the fenced marsh at the doorstep to Potala, Lhasa. But it is not allowed to get into the area. As mentioned before a relative to our guide had the key so we got in. Generally it is a huge water reservoir for the whole city. There is a dam where you can walk and easily pick up the different species. We used a couple of hours in this area and saw a lot of birds. Among others Ferruginous Pochard, Lesser Sand Plover, Hume's Short-Toed Lark, Mongolian Short-Toed Lark and Citrine Wagtail.





Lhasa marsh with Potala behind (Photo: EVR).

Balangshan

Balangshan is a high mountain pass at an elevation of 4.500 m above sea level, located in the Sichuan province of China. The road is mostly asphalted but includes several gravel sections. The top of the pass offers breathtaking views of the mountainous region and the snowcapped Siguniang Mountains. Balangshan pass is known as a very good bird location. It took us approximately one hour to reach the lower area from our hotel. There are many places where you can stop uphill. One of these places is at the tunnel where the old road goes around the tunnel providing a good platform for birding. Here we saw Tibetan Partridge, 13 White-Eared Pheasant, Kessler's Thrush among others and uphill later Grandala. It is also the place for Chinese Monal but without luck for us. July is not the best time a year to tick this bird. At the pass itself we saw Tibetan Snowcock, Snowpartridge and at the opposite side of the pass we found the beautiful White-Tailed Rubythroat.



Balangshan pass and Mads, Tina, Birthe and Carlos Baron (Photo: EVR).



Balangshan, Sichuan (Photo: EVR).

Longcanggou

Probably the most accessible site in the Wawu area is Longcanggou. Longcanggou is located just to the west of the now closed Wawu Mountain tourist area. It used to be one of the top Sichuan birding destinations. Longcanggou is being developed for public use with new road building. Birding is possible at different altitudes since the entrance area is around 1400 m but from there the park roads climbs up until it reaches its highest point 15 km further at 2300m. The best area was along a long green fence near the top (enclosures for Giant Pandas). Among the birds we saw here were 14 Temminck's Tragopan, Lady Amherst Pheasant, Great Parrotbill, Brown Parrotbill, Ashy-Throated Parrotbill and Grey-Hooded Parrotbill.



Photos from Longcanggou near the "green fence" (Photos: EVR).

Miscellaneous

Maps: Tibet 1:1.500.000 from trekking guide Tibet, CR 713 was the most detailed we could get before we left Copenhagen.

Trip Reports: There were a lot of reports on www.cloudbirders.com, we read a lot of them and printed a couple and took them with us. We can especially recommend Gordijn, R. and Helen Rijkse from 2016. Here you can find more exact information about the locations.

Timing of the trip: If we're going again we would go a month or two earlier because it then would be possible to see far more pheasants and especially better luck for Chinese Monal. May is probably best time but not possible for us this year.

Cost of the trip: The total for each of us was approximately Euro 4.900.

ATM: No experience because almost everything was paid from home and we had a lot of cash with us.

Visa to China and Tibet: You have to contact your own embassy or travel agent before you leave for China and Tibet. For entrance to Tibet you also have to show a very detailed itinerary including guides and accommodation for every day.

Systematic

Generally, systematics follows MacKinnon, J. & K. Phillips: A Field Guide to the Birds of China, 2013. But we have added some new species to the World (Bird Life International) documented and described the recent years.

Endemics

The endemics of Tibet are specified with an * in this report and endemics of China with two **.

Birds

SNOW PARTRIDGE (*Lerwa lerwa*)

19/7 1 Balangshan.

TIBETAN SNOWCOCK (*Tetraogallus tibetanus*)

19/7 3 and 20/7 3 Balangshan. The 6 different birds seen well and properly.



Tibetan Partridge and Tibetan Snowcock (Photos: ME).

CHESTNUT-THROATED PARTRIDGE (*Tetraophasis obscurus*) **

19/7 1 and 20/7 1 Balangshan.

TIBETAN PARTRIDGE (*Perdix hodgsoniae*)

11/7 3 and 15/7 2 Shugsep, 19/7 3 Balangshan.

SICHUAN PARTRIDGE (*Arborophila rufipectus*) **

23/7 1 Longcanggou (ME only).

CHINESE BAMBOO PARTRIDGE (*Bambusicola thoracia*) **

23/7 1 heard only Longcanggou.

BLOOD PHEASANT (*Ithaginis cruentus*)

19/7 2 Balangshan.

TEMMINCK'S TRAGOPAN (*Tragopan temminckii*)

23/7 14 Longcanggou. No males but four females with juveniles only – four family groups.



Temmincks Tragopan (Photo: ME).

KOKLASS PHEASANT (*Pucrasia macrolopha*)

19/7 1 female together with 3 pulli / juveniles on the road before sunrise Balangshan.

TIBETAN EARED PHEASANT (*Crossoptilon harmani*) *

11/7 5 and 15/7 9 Shugsep. The first bird we saw was just after the little village downhill. But the most of them was seen in small groups close to the nunnery.

WHITE EARED PHEASANT (*Crossoptilon crossoptilon*)

19/7 13 birds together in one flock at Balangshan and 20/7 1 same location. All birds were seen on the slopes above “the tunnel”.



Tibetan Eared Pheasant at Shugsep (Photo: ME).

COMMON PHEASANT (*Phasianus colchicus*)

21/7 2 Balangshan.

GOLDEN PHEASANT (*Chrysolophus pictus*) **

21/7 1 male calling, heard only, Balangshan.

LADY AMHERST'S PHEASANT (*Chrysolophus amherstiae*) **

23/7 1 female Longcanggou.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE (*Anser indicus*)

8/7 250+ Tibetan Plateau between Golmud and Lhasa and the most of them near Amdo Lake.

RUDDY SHELDUCK (*Tadorna ferruginea*)

8/7 40+ Tibetan Plateau between Golmud and Lhasa and many of them at Amdo Lake, 13/7 2 Namtso Lake, 14/7 2 Lhasa marsh and 15/7 2 Lhasa River.

MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

8/7 1 Tibetan Plateau between Golmud and Lhasa and 14/7 7 Lhasa marsh.

GADWALL (*Anas strepera*)

14/7 13 Lhasa marsh.

EURASIAN WIGEON (*Anas Penelope*)

14/7 1 male Lhasa marsh.

FERRUGINOUS POCHARD (*Aythya nyroca*)

14/7 6 Lhasa marsh.

COMMON MERGANSER (*Mergus merganser*)

8/7 4 Tibetan Plateau between Golmud and Lhasa, 14/7 2 Lhasa marsh and 18/7 19 Lhasa river.

GREY-CAPPED PYGMY WOODPECKER (*Dendrocopos canicapillus*)

22/7 1 Longcanggou.

CRIMSON-BREASTED WOODPECKER (*Dendrocopos cathpharius*)

22/7 1 and 23/7 1 Longcanggou.



Darjeeling Woodpecker (Photo: ME).

DARJEELING WOODPECKER (*Dendrocopos darjellensis*)

22/7 1 Longcanggou.

WHITE-BACKED WOODPECKER (*Dendrocopos leucotos*)

23/7 1 Longcanggou.

BLACK WOODPECKER (*Dryocopus martius*)

18/7 1 Balangshan.

SICHUAN TREECREEPER (*Certhia tianquanensis*) **

22/7 1 heard Longcanggou (ME, TE and guide only). This species is near threatened with a population size of 700 birds and the population is decreasing (Bird Life 2017). Our guide found this rare species at the top at

Longcanggou close to the green fence. Split from Eurasian Treecreeper (*Certhia familiaris*) (Li 1995) but not mentioned in MacKinnon and Phillips (2013).

COMMON HOOPOE (*Upupa epops*)

8/7 4 Tibetan Plateau between Golmud and Lhasa, 9/7 25+ including 1 breeding pair together with 3 juvenile Drepung Monastery, 10/7 5 including 1 pair at nest Sera Monastery, 11/7 15+ Shugsep, 13/7 10 Namtso Lake and Lhasa river, 14/7 10 Lhasa marsh and 15/7 10+ Shugsep including at least 3 breeding pairs.



Hoopoe at breeding place, Sera Monastery, Lhasa (Photos: ME).

ASIAN KOEL (*Eudynamys scolopacea*)

23/7 1 Longcanggou.

LARGE HAWK CUCKOO (*Hierococcyx sparveroides*)

23/7 1 heard only Longcanggou (ME only).

EURASIAN CUCKOO (*Cuculus canorus*)

11/7 2 Shugsep, 14/7 1 Lhasa marsh, 15/7 1 Shugsep and 19/7 1 Balangshan.

HIMALAYAN CUCKOO (*Cuculus saturates*)

24/7 1 Chengdu. This species is recently split from Oriental Cuckoo (*Cuculus optatus*) who is breeding in Siberia (Bird Life 2016).

LESSER CUCKOO (*Cuculus poliocephalus*)

21/7 1 and 22/7 2 Longcanggou.

DERBYAN PARAKEET (*Psittacula derbiana*)

10/7 5+ including 1 pair at nest with one juvenile Norbulinka, Lhasa.



Derbyan Parakeet adult feeding a 1 year male (Photo: ME).

WHITE-THROATED NEEDLETAIL (*Hirundapus caudactus*)

22/7 20+ and 23/7 5 Longcanggou.

COMMON SWIFT (*Apus apus*)

6/7 1 the Great Wall of China, Beijing.

FORK-TAILED SWIFT (*Apus pacificus*)

9/7 2 Drepung monastery, 10/7 3 Potala, 14/7 3 Lhasa marsh and 15/7 2 Shugsep.

SALIM ALI'S SWIFT (*Apus salimali*) **

18/7 10+ between Chengdu and Balangshan. This species was formerly included in Fork-Tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus kanoi*) but split recently (Leader 2011, Bird Life) and not mentioned in MacKinnon and Phillips (2013). We saw all the birds when we stopped for gasoline after leaving Chengdu.

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*)

Fairly common in Lhasa.

HILL PIGEON (*Columba rupestris*)

A fairly common bird in Tibet and we counted at least 147 birds. This species was seen almost every day in Tibet and most of them around Lhasa. In Sichuan: 18/7 1 Balangshan only.



Hill Pigeon was a fairly common bird in Lhasa (Photo: ME).

SNOW PIGEON (*Columba leuconota*)

8/7 1 Tibetan Plateau between Golmud and Lhasa seen from the Trans Tibetan Railway. 18/7 5 Balangshan.

SPECKLED WOOD PIGEON (*Columba hodgsonii*)

18/7 2 Balangshan.

ORIENTAL TURTLE DOVE (*Streptopelia orientalis*)

Seen every day in Tibet and we counted at least 120 individuals. In Sichuan: 21/7 3 Balangshan only.

SPOTTED DOVE (*Streptopelia chinensis*)

24/7 1 Chengdu.

BLACK-NECKED CRANE (*Grus nigricollis*)

8/7 36 Tibetan Plateau between Golmud and Lhasa and the most of them near Amdo Lake.

COMMON MOORHEN (*Gallinula chloropus*)

14/7 1 Lhasa marsh.

COMMON COOT (*Fulica atra*)

13/7 4 Lhasa river and 14/7 50+ Lhasa marsh.

COMMON REDSHANK (*Tringa tetanus*)

8/7 1 Tibetan Plateau between Golmud and Lhasa, 13/7 2 Lhasa river and 14/7 50+ Lhasa marsh.

GREEN SANDPIPER (*Tringa ochropus*)

14/7 1 Lhasa marsh.

COMMON SANDPIPER (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

14/7 3 Lhasa marsh.

IBISBILL (*Ibidorhyncha struthersii*)

13/7 1 seen shortly, flying away and landed up-river Lhasa river (TE only).

PLOVER SP. (*Charadrius non det.*)

8/7 1 was seen from the train between Golmud and Lhasa. It was probably Lesser Sand or Little Ringed.

LESSER SAND PLOVER (*Charadrius mongolus*)

14/7 1 Lhasa marsh.

PALLAS'S GULL (*Larus ichthyaetus*)

8/7 15+ Lhasa river seen from the train between Golmud and Lhasa. The most of the birds was seen just 10-20 km before we arrived at Lhasa Railway station.

BROWN-HEADED GULL (*Larus brunnicephalus*)

8/7 350+ Tibetan Plateau between Golmud and Lhasa, 9/7 2 Drepung monastery, 10/7 1 Potala, 13/7 50 Namtso Lake and Lhasa river, 14/7 25+ Lhasa marsh and 15/7 10+ Shugsep and Lhasa river.

COMMON TERN (*Sterna hirundo*)

8/7 250+ Tibetan Plateau between Golmud and Lhasa, 9/7 1 Drepung monastery, 11/7 2 Shugsep and Lhasa river, 13/7 1 Namtso Lake, 14/7 10 Lhasa marsh and 15/7 5 Lhasa river.

ORIENTAL HONEY BUZZARD (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*)

23/7 1 Balangshan.

BLACK-EARED KITE (*Milvus lineatus*)

14/7 1 Lhasa marsh.

LAMMERGEIER (*Gypaetus barbatus*)

19/7 1 and 20/7 2 Balangshan.

HIMALAYAN GRIFFON (*Gyps himalayensis*)

8/7 24 Tibetan Plateau between Golmud and Lhasa thereof 17 birds on a dead animal probably a sheep or dead Yak, 10/7 4 Sera monastery, 13/7 1 between Damxung and Namtso Lake, 14/7 1 Lhasa marsh and 15/7 1 Shugsep. In Sichuan we saw 18/7 5, 19/7 5 and 20/7 10+ Balangshan.

CRESTED SERPENT EAGLE (*Spilornis cheela*)

23/7 1 Longchanggou.

EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK (*Accipiter nisus*)

19/7 1 Balangshan and 23/7 1 Longcanggou.

HIMALAYAN BUZZARD (*Buteo refectus*)

18/7 1 and 19/7 3 Balangshan. This species has a very large range and the population trend is unknown (Bird Life 2012, Portenko 1929). This species is not mentioned in MacKinnon and Phillips (2013).

UPLAND BUZZARD (*Buteo hemilasius*)

8/7 25+ Tibetan Plateau between Golmud and Lhasa, 10/7 1 Sera monastery 18/7 1 and 19/7 2 Balangshan.

GOLDEN EAGLE (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

11/7 1 ad Shugsep, 13/7 4 ad between Damxung and Namtso Lake including incredible good views of a hunting bird very close to us. The bird was hunting a Pika with success. 15/7 3 ad Shugsep and 19/7 1 Balangshan.



Golden Eagle and Himalayan Griffon (Photos: ME).

COMMON KESTREL (*Falco tinnunculus*)

13/7 1 Damxung and 15/7 1 Shugsep.

SAKER FALCON (*Falco cherrug*)

8/7 7 Tibetan Plateau between Golmud and Lhasa and 13/7 1 Namtso Lake.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE (*Podiceps cristatus*)

8/7 40+ including some breeding pairs with pulli Tibetan Plateau between Golmud and Lhasa. Many of the birds were seen at Amdo Lake. 13/7 25 including two breeding pairs Namtso Lake and 14/7 2 Lhasa marsh.

GREAT CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

6/7 1 outside Beijing.

LITTLE EGRET (*Egretta garzetta*)

14/7 1 seen for long time and properly in telescope Lhasa marsh. Photo documented. According to MacKinnon and Philips (2013) this species should not occur in Tibet so it is maybe an unusual observation. 21/7 1 Balangshan.

GREAT EGRET (*Casmerodius albus*)

14/7 1 Lhasa marsh.

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*)

14/7 12 Lhasa marsh and 21/7 3 Balangshan.

GREY HERON (*Ardea cinerea*)

6/7 2 the Great Wall of China, Beijing.

CHINESE POND HERON (*Ardeola bacchus*)

6/7 2 the Great Wall of China, Beijing.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

14/7 1 ad Lhasa marsh.

WALLCREEPER (*Tichodroma muraria*)

13/7 1 seen well and for relatively long time foraging and flying around near Lhasa river between Damxung

and Lhasa when we stopped at the main road at a place with high cliffs. It was approximately 20-30 km before we arrived at Lhasa. 15/7 1 Shugsep just before we reached the nunnery.

BROWN SHRIKE (*Lanius cristatus*)

18/7 1 and 19/7 2 Balangshan.

LONG-TAILED SHRIKE (*Lanius schach*)

17/7 1 Chengdu.

GREY-BACKED SHRIKE (*Lanius tephronotus*)

Fairly common and we counted at least 54 birds in Tibet. At Sera monastery, Drepung monastery and Norbulinka we saw breeding pairs with juveniles. In Sichuan: 21/7 2 Longcanggou.



Grey-Backed Shrike (Photo: ME).

RED-BILLED BLUE MAGPIE (*Urocissa erythrorhyncha*)

18/7 2 and 21/7 10+ Balangshan.

AZURE-WINGED MAGPIE (*Cyanopica cyanus*)

6/7 3 Beijing.

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE (*Pica pica*)

6/7 7 Beijing, 8/7 2 Tibetan Plateau between Golmud and Lhasa, 9/7 2 Drepung monastery, 10/7 2 Potala and 11/7 2 Shugsep.

HUME'S GROUNDPECKER (*Pseudopodoces humilis*)

8/7 30+ Tibetan Plateau between Golmud and Lhasa, 10/7 1 Sera monastery and 13/7 40+ between Lhasa and Namtso Lake especially after we have left Damxung for the valley against Namtso.

SPOTTED NUTCRACKER (*Nucifraga caryocatactes*)

21/7 and 22/7 1 Longcanggou.

RED-BILLED CHOUGH (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*)

8/7 8 Tibetan Plateau between Goldmud and Lhasa, 9/7 3 Drepung monastery, 11/7 5 Shugsep, 13/7 5 Namtso Lake, 15/7 30+ Shugsep, 18/7 2 and 20/7 20+ Balangshan.

YELLOW-BILLED CHOUGH (*Pyrrhocorax graculus*)

20/7 2 Balangshan.

ROOK (*Corvus frugilegus*)

6/7 2 Beijing.

LARGE-BILLED CROW (*Corvus macrorhynchos*)

6/7 5 the Great Wall of China, 18/7 1, 19/7 10+ and 20/7 6 Balangshan.

COMMON RAVEN (*Corvus corax*)

8/7 10+ Tibetan Plateau between Golmud and Lhasa, 13/7 3 Tibetan Plateau between Lhasa and Namtso Lake.

WHITE-THROATED DIPPER (*Cinclus cinclus*)

13/7 5 Lhasa river, 18/7 1 and 19/7 2 Balangshan.

LONG-TAILED MINIVET (*Pericrocotus ethologus*)

18/7 3 and 21/7 30+ Balangshan, 22/7 2 Longcanggou.

GREY-HEADED CANARY-FLYCATCHER (*Culicapa ceylonensis*)

22/7 2 and 23/7 1 Longcanggou.

BLUE WHISTLING THRUSH (*Myophonus caeruleus*)

21/7 3 between Balangshan and Longcanggou.

TIBETAN BLACKBIRD (*Turdus maximus*) *

9/7 1 Norbulinka, 11/7 4 Shugsep and 13/7 3 between Lhasa and Damxung.

It was formerly considered a subspecies of Common Blackbird (BirdLife 2016).

CHINESE BLACKBIRD (*Turdus mandarinus*) **

6/7 1 Beijing and 9/7 10+ Drepung monastery and Norbulinka.

It was formerly considered a subspecies of Common Blackbird (BirdLife 2016).

PLAIN-BACKED THRUSH / SICHUAN FOREST THRUSH (*Zoothera griseiceps*)

18/7 1, 19/7 2 and 20/7 1 Balangshan.

ALPINE THRUSH (*Zoothera mollissima*)

18/7 1 Balangshan. The Alpine Thrush was formerly known as the Plain-Backed Thrush (*Zoothera mollissima*) until split into the Sichuan Thrush (*Zoothera griseiceps*) and the newly discovered Himalayan Thrush (*Zoothera salimalii*) (Bird Life International 2012). This species is not mentioned in the field guide.

LONG-TAILED THRUSH (*Zoothera dixonii*)

19/7 1 Balangshan.

CHESTNUT THRUSH (*Turdus rubrocanus*)

18/7 1, 19/7 7, 20/7 5 and 21/7 10 Balangshan.

KESSLER'S THRUSH (*Turdus kessleri*) **

19/7 2 and 20/7 3 Balangshan.

ORANGE-FLANKED BUSH ROBIN (*Tarsiger cyanurus*)

19/7 1 ad male together with 1 juvenile and 20/7 1 Balangshan.

WHITE-TAILED ROBIN (*Myiomela leucura*)

20/7 1 Balangshan.

WHITE-TAILED RUBYTHROAT (*Luscinia pectoralis*)

19/7 3 Balangshan.

BLACK REDSTART (*Phoenicurus ochruros*)

8/7 6 Tibetan Plateau between Golmud and Lhasa, 9/7 1 Drepung monastery, 11/7 2 Shugsep, 13/7 15+ between Damxung and Namtso Lake, 14/7 1 Lhasa marsh and 15/7 1 Shugsep.

HODGSON'S REDSTART (*Phoenicurus hodgsoni*)

9/7 1 Drepung monastery, 11/7 14 Shugsep, 13/7 7 between Damxung and Namtso Lake and 15/7 15+ Shugsep.

WHITE-THROATED REDSTART (*Phoenicurus schisticeps*)

11/7 4 Shugsep. All birds were seen when we walked at the old path or track from the nunnery and down the valley. 18/7 4 Balangshan.

DAURIAN REDSTART (*Phoenicurus aureus*)

21/7 2 Balangshan.

WHITE-WINGED REDSTART (*Phoenicurus erythrogaster*)

8/7 1 male seen from the Trans-Tibetan Railway between Golmud and Lhasa at 5.000 m (ME only).

BLUE-FRONTED REDSTART (*Phoenicurus frontalis*)

18/7 6, 19/7 6 and 20/7 10 Balangshan.

WHITE-CAPPED WATER REDSTART (*Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*)

13/7 1 Lhasa river, 18/7 8, 19/7 2, 20/7 6 and 21/7 1 Balangshan.

PLUMBEOUS WATER REDSTART (*Rhyacornis fuliginosus*)

18/7 4, 19/7 2, 20/7 6 and 21/7 2 Balangshan.



White-capped Water Redstart and Plumbeous Water Redstart (Photos: ME).



Blue-fronted Redstart and (Eastern) Black Redstart (Photo: ME).

WHITE-BELLIED REDSTART (*Hodgsonius phaenicuroides*)

19/7 1 and 20/7 1 Balangshan, 22/7 3 and 23/7 1 Longcanggou.

DARK-SIDED FLYCATCHER (*Muscicapa sibirica*)

22/2 2 Longcanggou.

RUFIOUS-GORGETED FLYCATCHER (*Ficedula strophliata*)

22/7 2 Longcanggou.

VERDITER FLYCATCHER (*Eymyias thalassina*)

22/7 1 Longcanggou.

FUJIAN NILTAVA (*Niltava davidi*)

20/7 1 Balangshan.

GRANDALA (*Grandala coelicolor*)

18/7 1 female, 19/7 1 male and 20/7 2 females Balangshan and all above 4.000 m. This species was one of the top five targets for this trip.

WHITE-CROWNED FORKTAIL (*Enicurus leschenaultia*)

20/7 1 Balangshan.

CRESTED MYNA (*Acridotheres cristatellus*)

9/7 4 Norbulinka, Lhasa and 21/7 4 between Balangshan and Longcanggou. The birds from Norbulinka park are probably introduced.

EURASIAN NUTHATCH (*Sitta europaea*)

22/7 4 Longcanggou.

COAL TIT (*Parus ater*)

18/7 2 and 19/7 1 Balangshan, 22/7 2 Longcanggou.

YELLOW-BELLIED TIT (*Parus venustus*) **

23/7 2 Longcanggou.

GREAT TIT (*Parus major*)

6/7 2 the Great Wall of China, Beijing, 9/7 10+ Drepung monastery and Norbulinka, 10/7 3 Potala and Sera monastery, 11/7 5 Shugsep, 14/7 2 Lhasa marsh and 15/7 2 Shugsep.

GREEN-BACKED TIT (*Parus monticolus*)

19/7 4, 20/7 2 and 21/7 6 Balangshan, 22/7 4 and 23/7 2 Longcanggou.

SICHUAN TIT (*Poecile weigoldicus*) **

18/7 2 Balangshan. This species is split from Willow Tit (*Parus montanus weigoldicus*) but not mentioned in MacKinnong and Phillips (2013) as a species.

YELLOW-BROWED TIT (*Sylviparus modestus*)

22/7 6 and 23/7 1 Longcanggou.

BLACK-BROWED TIT (*Aegithalos bonvaloti*)

22/7 6 Longcanggou.

SAND MARTIN (*Riparia riparia*)

8/7 30+ Tibetan Plateau between Golmud and Lhasa, 13/7 2 Namtso Lake and 14/7 25+ Lhasa marsh.

EURASIAN CRAG MARTIN (*Hirundo rupestris*)

8/7 4 Tibetan Plateau between Golmud and Lhasa, 10/7 5 Potala and Sera monastery, 13/7 10 Namtso Lake and Lhasa river.

BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*)

6/7 1 Beijing and 8/7 5 Tibetan Plateau between Golmud and Lhasa.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW (*Hirundo daurica*)

17/7 3 Chengdu Airport and 21/7 20+ Longcanggou.

ASIAN HOUSE MARTIN (*Delichon dasypus*)

11/7 5 Shugsep, 13/7 3 Namtso Lake, 14/7 1 Lhasa marsh and 15/7 8 Shugsep, 18/7 30+, 19/7 2 and, 20/7 5 Balangshan and 21/7 4 Longcanggou.

LIGHT-VENTED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus sinensis*)

18/7 1 Balangshan and 21/7 10+ Longcanggou.

COLLARED FINCHBILL (*Spizixos semitorques*)

18/7 2 between Chengdu and Balangshan, 19/7 1 and 20/7 1 Balangshan, 21/7 1 Longcanggou.

PLAIN PRINIA (*Prinia inornata*)

24/7 1 Chengdu Research Base Giant Panda Breeding.

BROWNISH-FLANKED BUSH WARBLER (*Cettia fortipes*)

18/7 1 between Chengdu and Balangshan, 20/7 1 and 21/7 3 Balangshan, 23/7 1 Longcanggou.

YELLOWISH-BELLIED BUSH WARBLER (*Cettia acanthizoides*)

20/7 1 Balangshan, 22/7 1 and 23/7 1 Longcanggou.

SPOTTED BUSH WARBLER (*Bradypterus thoracicus*)

22/7 1 Longcanggou.

BROWN BUSH WARBLER (*Bradypterus luteoventris*)

21/7 1 Balangshan and 23/7 1 Longcanggou.

BUFF-THROATED WARBLER (*Phylloscopus subaffinis*)

19/7 1 Balangshan.

CHESTNUT-HEADED TESIA (*Tesia castaneocoronata*)

19/7 1 Balangshan and 22/7 1 Longcanggou.

ABERRANT BUSH WARBLER (*Cettia flavolivacea*)

19/7 1 Balangshan, 22/7 10+ and 23/7 1 Longcanggou.

WHITE-BROWED TIT WARBLER (*Leptopoecile sophiae*)

11/7 3 and 15/7 2 Shugsep nunnery. We looked for this species many places but we found it close to Shugsep only. The birds 11/7 were seen 100-200 m below the nunnery in the scrub and 15/7 we found them in a garden at the very little village around the nunnery.

ASHY-THROATED WARBLER (*Phylloscopus maculipennis*)

22/7 6 and 23/7 5 Longcanggou.



Ashy-Throated Warbler (Photo: ME).

HUME'S WARBLER (*Phylloscopus humei*)

18/7 6, 19/7 5 and 20/7 2 Balangshan.

TICKELL'S LEAF WARBLER (*Phylloscopus affinis*)

11/7 1 Shugsep, 13/7 1 between Damxung and Namtso Lake and 15/7 2 Shugsep.

ALPINE LEAF WARBLER (*Phylloscopus occisinensis*) **

18/7 3 and 19/7 1 Balangshan. This species is split from Tickell's Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus affinis*) (Marten & Päckert 2008). This species is not mentioned in MacKinnon & Phillips (2013) as a species. It is found only in Sichuan, Qinghai and Gansu provinces.

YELLOW-STREAKED WARBLER (*Phylloscopus armandii*)

21/7 2 Balangshan.

BUFF-BARRED WARBLER (*Phylloscopus pulcher*)

19/7 6 and 20/7 1 Balangshan, 22/7 2 and 23/7 2 Longcanggou.

SICHUAN LEAF WARBLER (*Phylloscopus forresti*)

18/7 4, 19/7 3 and 20/7 4 Balangshan, 22/7 4 and 23/7 3 Longcanggou. The Sichuan Leaf Warbler is split from Lemon-Rumped Warbler (*Phylloscopus chloronotus*) (Bird Life 2017).

GREENISH WARBLER (*Phylloscopus trochiloides*)

11/7 1 Shugsep and 18/7 4 Balangshan.

LARGE-BILLED LEAF WARBLER (*Phylloscopus magnirostris*)

19/7 1, 20/7 1 and 21/7 1 Balangshan, 22/7 10+ and 23/7 10+ Longcanggou.

CLAUDIA'S LEAF WARBLER (*Phylloscopus claudiae*) **

19/7 4 and 20/7 10+ Balangshan. A relatively new species found breeding in central China (Olsson et al 2005) but not mentioned in the field guide MacKinnon & Phillips (2013).

KLOSS'S LEAF WARBLER (*Phylloscopus ogilviegranti*)

21/7 2 and 23/7 2 Longcanggou. Again a relatively new species found in China (del Hoyo et al 2016, Bird Life) not mentioned in the field guide as a species.

BIANCHI'S WARBLER (*Seicercus valentine*)

19/7 1 and 20/7 1 Balangshan, 22/7 2 Longcanggou. This species is not mentioned in the field-guide but today it is accepted as a full species (Bird Life 2012).

MARTEN'S WARBLER (*Seicercus omeiensis*) **

19/7 3, 20/7 1 and 21/7 1 Balangshan, 23/7 1 Longcanggou.

GOLDCREST (*Regulus regulus*)

18/7 1 Balangshan.

RUFIOUS-FACED WARBLER (*Abroscopus albogularis*)

20/7 1 Balangshan.

PLAIN LAUGHINGTHRUSH (*Garrulax davidi*) **

9/7 2 Norbulinka park. According to MacKinnon and Phillips (2013, plate 101) this species should not be in that part of Tibet so it is possibly a fairly uncommon observation. We took some photos of the birds for documentation. In 2015 SOF, Avifauna (2015) also found this species at same location.

BARRED LAUGHINGTHRUSH (*Garrulax lunulatus*) **

19/7 1 Balangshan.

GIANT LAUGHINGTHRUSH (*Garrulax maximus*) **

18/7 1, 19/7 5 and 20/7 2 Balangshan.

SPOTTED LAUGHINGTHRUSH (*Garrulax ocellatus*)

22/7 1 and 23/7 1 Longcanggou.

WHITE-BROWED LAUGHINGTHRUSH (*Garrulax sannio*)

21/7 2 Longcanggou and 24/7 10+ Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding.

ELLIOT'S LAUGHINGTHRUSH (*Garrulax elliotii*) **

18/7 2, 19/7 3, 20/7 5 and 21/7 4 Balangshan, 22/7 8 and 23/7 10+ Longcanggou.

BROWN-CHEEKED LAUGHINGTHRUSH (*Garrulax henrici*) *

9/7 8 Drepung monastery and Norbulinka, 10/7 3 Sera monastery, 11/7 15+ Shugsep and 15/7 10+ Shugsep.
The species seems to be fairly common birds around Lhasa.

RED-WINGED LAUGHINGTHRUSH (*Garrulax formosus*)

22/7 1 and 23/7 1 Longcanggou.

EMEI SHAN LIOCICHLA (*Liocichla omeinsis*) **

22/7 2 and 23/7 2 Longcanggou.

STREAK-BREASTED SCIMITAR BABBLER (*Pomatorhinus ruficollis*)

19/7 1 and 21/7 2 Balangshan, 23/7 1 Longcanggou.

BLACK-STREAKED SCIMITAR BABBLER (*Pomatorhinus gravivox*)

21/7 1 Balangshan.

WINTER WREN (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)

22/7 1 Longcanggou.

PYGMY WREN BABBLER (*Pnoepya pusilla*)

22/7 1 and 23/7 3 Longcanggou.

RUFIOUS-CAPPED BABBLER (*Stachyris ruficeps*)

23/7 1 Longcanggou.

RED-BILLED LEIOTHRIX (*Leiothrix lutea*)

22/7 2 and 23/7 1 Longcanggou.

BLUE-WINGED MINLA (*Minla cyanouroptera*)

23/7 1 Longcanggou.

RED-TAILED MINLA (*Minla ignotincta*)

23/7 4 Longcanggou.

CHINESE BABAX (*Babax lanceolatus*)

18/7 2 and 21/7 6+ Balangshan.

GIANT BABAX (*Babax waddelli*) *

11/7 20+ and 15/7 4 Shugsep. The only location where we found this species was in Xiong Si Valley and Shugsep nunnery. In the little village in Xiong Si Valley we saw the first birds and later we saw more birds around the nunnery.



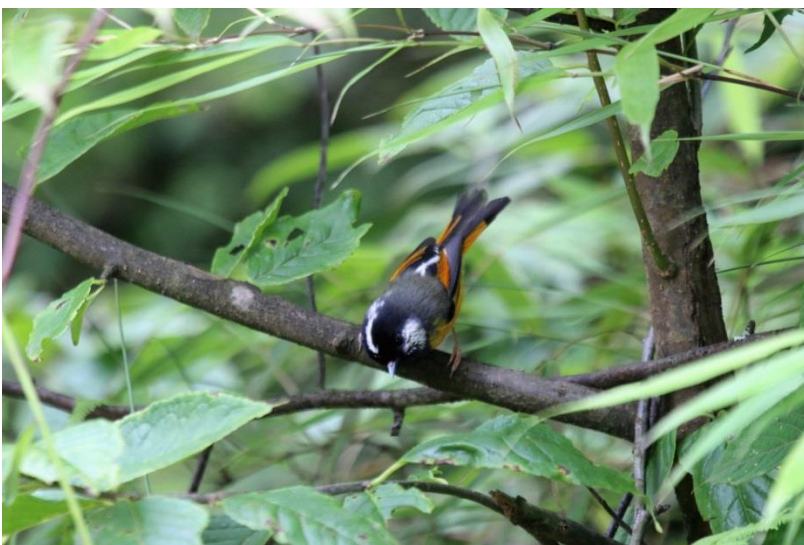
Giant Babax * (Photo: ME).

GREEN SHRIKE BABBLER (*Pteruthius xanthochlorus*)

23/7 2 Longcanggou.

GOLDEN-BREASTED FULVETTA (*Alcippe chrysotis*)

23/7 15+ and 24/7 4 Longcanggou.



Golden-Breasted Fulvetta, Longcanggou (Photo: ME).

CHINESE FULVETTA (*Alcippe striaticollis*) **

19/7 1 Balangshan.

STREAK-THROATED FULVETTA (*Alcippe cinereiceps*)

22/7 6 and 23/7 4 Longcanggou.

STRIPE-THROATED YUHINA (*Yuhina gularis*)

22/7 4 Longcanggou.

WHITE-COLLARED YUHINA (*Yuhina diademata*)

21/7 1, 22/7 10+ and 23/7 4 Longcanggou.



White-collared Yuhina (Photo: ME).

BLACK-CHINNED YUHINA (*Yuhina nigrimenta*)

24/7 2 Longcanggou.

WHITE-BELLIED YUHINA (*Yuhina zantholeuca*)

20/7 3 Balangshan.

GREAT PARROTBILL (*Conostoma oemodium*)

22/7 1 Longcanggou.

THREE-TOED PARROTBILL (*Paradoxornis paradoxus*) **

23/7 8 Longcanggou.

BROWN PARROTBILL (*Paradoxornis unicolor*)

22/7 2 Longcanggou.

VINOUS-THROATED PARROTBILL (*Paradoxornis webbianus*)

24/7 1 Longcanggou.

ASHY-THROATED PARROTBILL (*Paradoxornis alphonisianus*)

21/7 2 Longcanggou.

GREY-HOODED PARROTBILL (*Paradoxornis zappeyi*) **

22/7 3 Longcanggou.

GOLDEN PARROTBILL (*Paradoxornis verreauxi*)

23/7 2 Longcanggou.

TIBETAN LARK (*Melanocorypha maxima*)

13/7 3 Namtso Lake. The birds were seen at the plains just before the guesthouse near Namtso Lake.

Approximately one km before you reach the guesthouse a little road are going against east, and 2-3 km out of this road we made some stops which produced Tibetan Lark.

MONGOLIAN SHORT-TOED LARK / or SYKE'S SHORT-TOED LARK (*Calandrella dukhunensis*)

14/7 1 Lhasa marsh. The Mongolian Short-toed Lark was formerly considered as a subspecies of the Greater Short-Toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*) until split in 2016 by the IOC (Bird Life 2016).

HUME'S SHORT-TOED LARK (*Calandrella acutirostris*)

13/7 2 Namtso Lake and 14/7 1 Lhasa marsh.

CRESTED LARK (*Galerida cristata*)

14/7 2 Lhasa marsh.

ORIENTAL SKYLARK (*Alauda gulgula*)

11/7 2 Xiong Si Valley and Shugsep, 13/7 1 between Damxung and Namtso Lake and 14/7 2 Lhasa marsh.

HORNED SKYLARK (*Eremophila alpestris*)

13/7 3 the plains before Namtso Lake.

MRS GOULD'S SUNBIRD (*Aethopyga gouldiae*)

19/7 2 and 21/7 1 Balangshan, 23/7 1 Longcanggou.

JAPANESE WHITE-EYE (*Zosterops japonicas*)

20/7 2 Balangshan and 21/7 4 Longcanggou.

RUSSET SPARROW (*Passer rutilans*)

9/7 3 Drepung monastery and Norbulinka, 10/7 2 Sera monastery and 13/7 1 Lhasa river.

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW (*Passer montanus*)

A very common bird in Tibet and seen every day especially in Lhasa and around monastery's. We counted at least 355 birds but saw probably many more. In Sichuan: 21/7 5 Longcanggou.

TIBETAN SNOWFINCH (*Montifringilla adamsii*) **

8/7 3 Tibetan Plateau between Golmud and Lhasa and 13/7 15+ Namtso Lake.

WHITE-RUMPED SNOWFINCH (*Pyrgilauda taczanowskii*)

13/7 4 between Damxung and Namtso Lake including Largen-La Pass.

RUFOUS-NECKED SNOWFINCH (*Pyrgilauda ruficollis*)

13/7 15+ between Damxung and Namtso Lake including Largen-La Pass.

WHITE WAGTAIL (*Motacilla alba*)

7/7 1 Xining, 9/7 1 Norbulinka, 11/7 1 Shugsep, 13/7 2 Lhasa river, 14/7 5 Lhasa marsh and 15/7 2 Shugsep.
In Sichuan: 18/7 1 Balangshan, 21/7 2 and 23/7 2 Longcanggou.

CITRINE WAGTAIL (*Motacilla citreola*)

14/5 2 ad males + 1 female Lhasa marsh.



Citrine Wagtail, Lhasa marsh (Photo: ME).

GREY WAGTAIL (*Motacilla cinerea*)

18/7 2 and 19/7 1 Balangshan, 21/7 3, 22/7 6 and 23/7 5 Longcanggou.

OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT (*Anthus hodgsoni*)

18/7 2 and 19/7 4 Balangshan.

ROSY PIPIT (*Anthus roseatus*)

18/7 2, 19/7 7 and 20/7 5 Balangshan.

ALPINE ACCENTOR (*Prunella collaris*)

18/7 8, 19/7 8 and 20/7 5 Balangshan.

RUFIOUS-BREASTED ACCENTOR (*Prunella strophciata*)

18/7 3, 19/7 2 and 20/7 2 Balangshan.

BROWN ACCENTOR (*Prunella fulvescens*)

11/7 2 Shugsep, 13/7 1 ad together with 1 juvenile Namtso Lake and 15/7 10+ Shugsep. The species seems to be fairly common around Shugsep nunnery and a lot of birds were seen around the new parking area.



Brown Accentor's – a nature bird around Shugsep Monastery – here a pair ready for pairing (Photo: ME).

MAROON-BACKED ACCENTOR (*Prunella immaculate*)

19/7 1 and 20/7 1 Balangshan.

GREY-CAPPED GREENFINCH (*Carduelis sinica*)

7/7 2 in a little park, Xining. In Sichuan: 20/7 1 Balangshan, 21/7 20+ and 22/7 5 Longcanggou.

TWITE (*Carduelis flavirostris*)

10/7 3 Sera monastery, 13/7 1 Namtso Lake, 14/7 2 Lhasa marsh and 15/7 2 Shugsep.

PLAIN MOUNTAIN FINCH (*Leucostricte nemoricola*)

11/7 1 Shugsep, 13/7 1 between Damxung and Namtso Lake and 15/7 1 Shugsep. In Sichuan: 18/7 2, 19/7 1 and 20/7 1 Balangshan.

BRANDT'S MOUNTAIN FINCH (*Leucosticte brandti*)

8/7 1 Tibetan Plateau between Golmud and Lhasa and 13/7 4 between Damxung and Namtso Lake. In Sichuan: 18/7 10 and 20/7 2 Balangshan.

BLANDFORD'S ROSEFINCH (*Carpodacus rubescens*)

15/7 1 male Shugsep.

COMMON ROSEFINCH (*Carpodacus erythrinus*)

10/7 1 Potala, 11/7 3 Shugsep and 14/7 1 Lhasa marsh. In Sichuan: 18/7 14, 19/7 4 and 20/7 1 Balangshan, 22/7 1 Longcanggou.

BEAUTIFUL ROSEFINCH (*Carpodacus pulcherrimus*)

15/7 5+ Shugsep and 18/7 10+ Balangshan.

PINK-RUMPED ROSEFINCH (*Carpodacus eos*) **

11/7 25+ and 15/7 25+ Shugsep. In Sichuan: 18/7 3 Balangshan.



Pink-Rumped Rosefinch at Xiong Si valley (Photo: ME).

VINACEOUS ROSEFINCH (*Carpodacus vinaceus*)

22/7 6 and 23/7 4 Longcanggou.

WHITE-BROWED ROSEFINCH (*Carpodacus thura*) **

18/7 3 Balangshan.

STREAKED ROSEFINCH (*Carpodacus rubicilloides*)

11/7 7 Shugsep, 13/7 3 between Damxung and Namtso Lake and 15/7 10+ Shugsep. In Sichuan: 19/7 1 Balangshan.

RED-FACED ROSEFINCH (*Carpodacus puniceus*)

18/7 3, 19/7 5 and 20/7 1 Balangshan.

BROWN BULLFINCH (*Pyrrhula nipalensis*)

21/7 3 and 23/7 2 Longcanggou.

GREY-HEADED BULLFINCH (*Pyrrhula erythaca*)

19/7 1 Balangshan.

COLLARED GROSBEAK (*Mycerobas affinis*)

19/7 1 Balangshan (TE only).

WHITE-WINGED GROSBEAK (*Mycerobas carnipes*)

11/7 3 and 15/7 1 Shugsep. All birds at the parking area close to the nunnery.

SLATY BUNTING (*Latoucheornis siemsseni*) **

20/7 1 male and 21/7 1 male Balangshan.

GODLEWSKI'S BUNTING (*Emberiza godlewskii*)

11/7 10+ and 15/7 3 Shugsep.



Godlewski's Bunting and White-Winged Grosbeak (Photo: ME).



The Sichuan team from left: Mads, Tina, Summer Wong, Birthe and Erik – and the photographer Carlos Baron.

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