Qinghai and Xinjiang, China

25th June – 13th July 2012

Leaders: James Eaton and Rob Hutchinson

Participants: Tim Doran, John Eyre, Les Holliwell, Rob Leighton, Denzil Morgan, Mike Shaw, Graeme and Moira Wallace, Peter and Dorothy Webster

Our visit to the ‘Roof of the World’ was as wonderful as always as we watched the likes of Tibetan Sandgrouse, Henderson’s Ground Jay, Ala Shan Redstart, Tibetan and Himalayan Snowcocks, Przewalski’s Partridge, Hume’s Ground Jay, 5 species of snowfinches, Roborovski’s Rosefinch, Kozlov’s Babax, Szechney’s Monal Partridge, Gansu Leaf Warbler and the all important Pink-tailed Finch, a monotypic family! not to mention ‘padders’ of the quality of Ibisbill, Pallas Sandgrouse and Granada!

The closure of ‘Tibet’ lead us to the ‘New Frontier’ of Xinjiang and our ‘Bird-of-the-trip’ Biddulph’s Ground Jay, supported by White-winged Woodpecker, Saxaul Sparrow, Azure Tit, Red-mantled Rosefinch, Red-fronted Serin, Blue-capped and Eversmann’s Redstart, along with one or two taxonomic surprises...

Ironically we began one of our most picturesque tours on the barren rocky hillsides overlooking the pollution and grime of Xining. Nevertheless this morning not only aids our acclimatization but holds several species not found elsewhere on our tour. Meadow Bunting, Brown Accentor and Pied Wheatear all appeared and finally a pair of Pale Rosefinch accompanying two Twite completed our mission here, and we were on our way up onto the high plateau.

Once we hit the plateau several Daurian Jackdaws appeared and our first roadside Tibetan Larks but our first real birding stop was at a beautiful roadside marsh adjacent to the mighty Koko Nor salt-lake. Pale Martins were nesting in a roadside bank while Hume’s Short-toed Lark, Isabelline Wheatears and

Kozlov’s Bunting, Kanda Shan © James Eaton/Birduro Asia
Blanford’s Snowfinch frequented grassy areas. The marshes themselves held two Black-necked Cranes, Bar-headed Geese, a single Whooper Swan and masses of other waterfowl with Black-necked Grebes, Red-crested Pochard and Ferruginous Duck the highlights. More stops at various points around the lake added many Pallas’s Gulls, closer views of Black-necked Cranes and excellent looks at Tibetan Larks.

As we made our way towards our overnight destination at Chaka, Lammergeier, Rufous-necked Snowfinch and Little Owl were spotted, then a stop in the open desert areas gave great encounters with Henderson’s Ground Jay and more Blandford’s Snowfinches and round off an excellent first day.

The next morning we made our way up a beautiful gorge in search of some regional endemics and soon found the first of several Przevalski’s Partridges for the day calling loudly from surrounding cliffs. These were followed by stunning Wallcreepers which were clearing breeding here then a group of snowcocks which didn’t raise the alarm bells they should have because following our suspicions they were subsequently identified as Himalayan Snowcocks and a new bird for most of us! Tibetan Partridges were ‘scoped and the nest of Eurasian Hobby found but despite much walking up and down the hillsides by Rob and James the only redstarts we could find were Blue-fronted and White-throated Redstarts, with not a sniff of the regular Ala Shan Redstarts. A very photogenic family of Himalayan Marmots proved popular and we finished the morning with a bash through the grasslands in the valley bottom where we found several Daurian Partridges. After lunch we decided to risk the bad weather for a search at another highly desirable target. This proved a great move as the sun came out and we were treated to some great display flights and close perched views of the fascinating Pink-tailed Finch, a species now elevated to a monotypic family and a particularly thrilling encounter for the family listers on the tour! Also present were Alpine Leaf Warbler, Smoky Warbler, White-browed Tit, Robin Accentor and several Tibetan Snowfinches including a nest in a roadside bank.

Next morning we set out further afield to make amends for the previous days dip. The walk out to the valley took us across scrubby desert where there were both Desert and Isabelline Wheatears side-by-side, many Pine Buntings, a distant soaring Golden Eagle and we all caught up with at least one mobile Tibetan Grey Shrike. Almost as soon as we entered the valley we struck gold with a brilliant singing male Ala Shan Redstart, the most range restricted of the world’s redstarts, and a welcome sight after all our efforts! Flyover White-winged Grosbeaks completed a successful morning and kept us smiling even as we walked back in the freezing rain. We started the afternoon in an area with longer grassy fields where the sun came out just in time to encourage several Mongolian Larks into their spectacular flight with striking wing patterns, then we spent much time walking across the stony desert finding some brief Mongolian Finches, a loose colony of Pere David’s Snowfinches, several Lesser Sand Plovers and finally a flock of five Pallas Sandgrouse which performed a flyby right in front of us, perfectly lit by the early evening sunshine.

We made a return visit to the scrubby hillsides of two days previous where we again had wonderful looks at several Pink-tailed Finches, some in full parachuting display and also added a female Severtov’s Tit-Warbler, Rufous-necked Snowfinch, Beautiful Rosefinch and an obliging White-browed Tit. A fly-through of a Salim Ali’s Swift, a recent split from Pacific Swift, was too fast for some though.

From here we continued to the town of Gonghe, at the relatively low altitude of 2850m! Around the town we found Azure-winged Magpies, and by exploring the nearby dry, stony gullies we easily found groups of dapper Mongolian Finches besides Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush, and the _margelanica_ form which is often split as Margelanic Whitethroat due to its distinct vocalisations. A walk around the lusher fields nearby added ‘Tibetan’ Citrine Wagtail, Black-faced Bunting, Crested Lark, Hoopoe, Wryneck, Richards Pipit, Grey-backed Shrike and more ‘Margelanic Whitethroats. A collection of waders on the river included Lesser...
Sandplover, Redshank, Wood and Green Sandpipers, before we retired to our comfortable hotel to prepare for the next days exertions.

After a scenic drive and breakfast en route we arrived at our target destination – Er La pass – earlier than expected, and set out for a long anticipated search for one of the plateau’s most enigmatic breeders. This is our highest altitude hike of the tour but our acclimatisation had worked well and most of us made the slow slog up to the summit scree-plateau without undue difficulty, to a lofty 4850m! There were birds along the way including our first Guldenstadt’s Redstart, both Brandt’s and Plain Mountain Finches, several Prince Henri’s Snowfinches, and most importantly at least 4 Roborovski’s Rosefinch, another species here at its key site. Once at the top a group of Blue Sheep provided excitement as we diligently scanned and scanned to find our target. It didn’t take too long fortunately before a fine female Tibetan Sandgrouse allowed amazing views and photos of its intricate plumage against a backdrop of some of the most spectacular scenery in the world! It was perfect timing as well as a hail storm forced us to retreat down the mountain and we happily avoided a return visit the next day, opting instead for a comfortable hotel further south with glorious hot showers.

The next day was a long drive south to Nangqian but we broke the journey with several birding stops including Black-necked Cranes with a tiny juvenile and several Kiang (Tibetan Wild Ass) during breakfast. Many Upland Buzzards were logged during the drive and our first good views of Guldenstadt’s Redstarts followed. As we entered lusher valleys further south roadside Hoopoes and Kessler’s Thrushes became more abundant and a stop by some roadside cliffs gave no less than four perched Saker, great views of Salim Ali’s Swifts and most importantly, our only Great Rosefinches of the tour including some glorious males perched on roadside wires. We finished the day with a fine pair of Ibisbill on the rocky island of a fast flowing mountain stream.

Our drive up to a nearby high mountain pass next morning produced another Ibisbill in flight along the river and a pair of roadside Tibetan Partridges but it was on the very highest slopes that our main target was to be found, and even as we enjoyed a scenic picnic breakfast our first stunning Kozlov’s Bunting appeared with superb views of several birds of the course of the morning. Those of the group who ventured onto the higher slopes were rewarded with Red-fronted Rosefinches calling from the high crags, close flight views of Himalayan Griffon and Lammergeier. On the upper scree slopes we found Alpine Accentors, a party of Tibetan Snowcooks and the amazing iridescent blue of a feeding Grandala. As we descended the road a stop on a scrubby slope held White-tailed Rubythroat, White-browed Tit and Severtov’s Tit Warbler.

A walk along the spectacular gorge lower down the valley had many Elliot’s Laughingthrushes, Greenish Warblers and a handsome Eurasian Eagle Owl roosting in a secluded cave. Our final stop of the day was in a lightly forested side valley where Sichuan Tits were to be found, a confiding pair of Tibetan Partridges fed unconcerned and most importantly we had good views of Kozlov’s Babax, another speciality of this area.

Before dawn the next morning we transferred to 4WD vehicles to tackle the rough roads into Baizhe forest. After another breakfast in the field we set out into a wide side valley in search of our prime target here. We began with obliging White-winged Grosbeaks, then it wasn’t long before our prime target here – Szechney’s Monal Partridge – was heard calling but initially frustrated us by flying past and across the valley. Fortunately they were soon found again calling manically across the valley then amazingly zoomed back across to our side of the valley where after some tense searching they were located calling from the top of a dead stump. We were also delighted to have prolonged views of White Eared-Pheasant feeding on the grassy valley sides before rain forced us back to the vehicles for a while. Higher up the valley a family of Lammergeiers were at a nest site on the towering cliffs in the shadow of the impressive Ga’er

**Pine Bunting, Xining and Kozlov’s Bunting, Kanda Shan**
Monastery perched high on the cliffs. A large herd of Blue Sheep, totalling over 100, were appreciated then we spent some time around the resort clearing where Daurian Jackdaws gave stunning views besides Blue-fronted Redstart, Chinese White-browed Rosefinch, Black Woodpecker and brief Giant Laughingthrushes. Our afternoon was spent up a beautiful side valley where alongside the commoner species were a brief Three-banded Rosefinch, soaring Golden Eagles, Three-toed Woodpecker and yet more White Eared-Pheasants feeding on the grassy slopes.

The next morning started with fantastic views of Giant Laughingthrush then a beautiful walk up another valley started with some flythrough Salim Ali’s Swifts, an adult Lammergeier and Snow Pigeon. Careful scanning of the upper slopes found the rare White-lipped Deer feeding alongside the abundant Blue Sheep. As we continued a female Himalayan Bluetail was found and two frisky Blood Pheasants showed briefly. Excellent views of shining male Common Rosefinch, tame Grey-crested Tits and Sichuan Leaf Warbler kept things ticking and our first Rufous-breasted Accentors performed. A traditional lunch in a nearby village included close views of White-rumped and Rufous-necked Snowfinches then we finished the day on the slopes at a nearby mountain pass where our hoped-for Streaked Rosefinch was found as well as several dapper White-tailed Rubythroat, Brown Accentor and much fun identifying a distantly perched Lammergeier, that between the group was identified to 5 other species!

Our next day was mostly travelling (again!) but we did manage stops including good numbers and views of Salim Ali’s Swifts over breakfast, many Hoopoe and Grey-backed Shrike, two Ibisbill, White-capped Redstarts and White-throated Dipper. At higher altitudes in the afternoon we found good numbers of Lesser Sand Plovers, several Saker, Upland Buzzard and Tibetan Larks. A most impressive herd of 91 Kiang completed the day before a comfortable night in Maduo. Continuing north the next day there were good numbers of Tibetan Fox and Tibetan Gazelle at breakfast, then a long walk found large numbers of White-rumped, Rufous-necked and Blanford’s Snowfinch and several breeding pairs of Lesser Sand Plovers including recently fledged juveniles. We couldn’t resist another wander around the lower slopes of Er La pass as we passed and were pleased with some stunning Guldenstadt’s Redstarts but at least one Roborovski’s Rosefinch proved too mobile for the photographers this time. Further on, an opportunistic roadside came about when an Asian Badger was spotted trotting across the fields and we all enjoyed good views as he continued on the way, even safely crossing the busy road and the same area had Little Owl and excellent views of displaying Mongolian Larks.

Our stop the next morning was a rather ordinary looking rocky hillside surrounded by pasture but our target birds abound, with several Pine Buntings offering great looks, striking Citrine Wagtails, flocks of Salim Ali’s Swifts, smart Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush and finally great views of breeding Water Pipits. By lunch we were already in Datong and keen for a new set of birds so after lunch we were soon on our way to the park-like landscape of Dong Xia. Excitement was palpable as several new species were possible and most appeared in quick-fire succession. The highly range-restricted Gansu Leaf Warbler was common and within an hour we had also added stunning views of Przevalski’s Nuthatch, Songar Tit, Slaty-backed Flycatcher and Chinese Nuthatch. Another major target here didn’t behave quite as well though and after some hours walking around the slopes some of us were still struggling for views of the vocally distinct bluetails, currently surmised within Siberian Bluetail but surely better considered separate as ‘Gansu’ Bluetail. We did though pick up good looks at Crested Tit Warbler, then in the nearby scrub a fine male Siberian Rubythroat rounded off the day. We returned again to Dong Xia the next morning with Chestnut Thrush an early addition to the previous days haul. Fortunately in the early morning sun the ‘Gansu’ Bluetails proved much more obliging as they sang in the open and a big bonus before we needed to leave was a singing Chinese Song Thrush. We
made our way to Lanzhou town taking in a delicious lamb feast on the way, ready for our flight to potentially the most exciting area on the whole tour.

With the closure of the ‘Tibetan Autonomous Region’ to foreigner’s just a week before our departure, some drastic changes of plan were required. Unlike other operators that killed time on the plateau, we opted for the exciting option of visiting the ‘New Frontier’ - Xinjiang, an area barely visited by birders in spite of a host of exciting central Asian specialities and a readily available endemic. After an overnight stay in the capital Urumqi, we made a long drive the next day to Lantai, passing through spectacular rock formations along the way, seeing Raven, Pied Wheatear, Isabelline Shrike, Long-legged Buzzard and European Bee-eater, and enjoying a new cuisine with a lunch time feast of Lamb Cornish pasties and kebabs! The next morning we started in earnest, arriving at the Tarim River just after dawn and it was great to see the river in full flow after some drought years. We tried to have breakfast but the birds were very distracting and in no time at all we had seen several White-winged Woodpeckers, Saxaul Sparrow and minula Lesser Whitethroat, or Small Whitethroat as it’s also known. A sighting of two Chinese Bush-dwellers was particularly interesting as they are almost unrecognisable vocally and in plumage to the birds we had seen earlier in Shanxi.

We were all keen though to head deeper into the desert in search of our prime target but we needn’t have worried because within a very short time, there they were scurrying across the road and we all disembarked into a bizarre desert dune landscape dotted with dead trees which the Biddulph’s Ground Jays – endemic to the Taklimakan Desert - were particularly fond of as look-out posts. We were able to study the antics of this family party for quite some time before they moved off, and we joined the very few birders ever to have seen them. Also in the area were Desert Wheatears, Black Stork, Desert Finches and Booted Eagle. The endemic Tarim Basin Hare was also well appreciated by the mammal fans. We made a stop at some extensive marshes to break the journey back to Urumqi the next day and found them heaving with birds! Whiskered and White-winged Black Terns were popular with the photographers and the herons included many sightings of Little Bittern, a mega tick in the Oriental region! A large gull was identified as a Caspian after studying the photos while the reedbeds were alive with bird song, particularly Great Reed Warbler, Eurasian Reed Warbler, Eurasian Reed Bunting and delightful flocks of Bearded Reedling. A single Paddyfield Warbler was found and a flyover Barbary Falcon scattering the other birds far and wide. The last addition of the day was a Monk Vulture then we were back in Urumqi for another overnight stay.

Our final full day took us into the foothills of the Tian Shan, literally ‘celestial mountains’ when translated and the birding we certainly really good. We got off to a great start with our first of many Azure Tits joining a mixed flock while Mistle Thrush, Eurasian Blackbird and Common Whitethroat were new for the trip. We had expected Eversmann’s Redstart so it was great to quickly bump into a family party, the first of several found during the day as Common Crossbill flocks passed overhead. A big surprise here was a pair of bulky Red-mantled Rosefinches which is very seldom encountered in northern Xinjiang, and nice views of Black-throated Accentors. Typically it was the busiest area around the restaurants that had confiding Red-fronted Serin feeding on the lawn and nearby there were literally flocks of Nutcrackers descending to feed on a foul pile of sheep.
innards! Surprisingly it was the Blue-capped Redstarts that proved the most challenging (we had expected this to be the common one!) but we did finally locate a pair which showed on-and-off and also another pair of Red-mantled Rosefinch.

Those of us who were not due to leave Urumqi until the next afternoon whiled away the last morning with a visit to the local botanical gardens which was surprisingly birdy despite the rain including great views of Oriental Turtle Dove, Oriental Greenfinch, a posing Hoopoe and several Barred Warblers feasting on berries.

For information regarding our tours to Tibet or other areas of China please click here. Alternatively please contact us via e-mail regarding organising a custom tour to India.

**More photos from the tour:**

*Red-mantled Rosefinch and Fire-fronted Serin*

*Himalayan Marmot, Chaka*
Eurasian Magpie and Mongolian Lark (top)
Przewalski’s Partridge and Daurian Jackdaw (middle)
White-tailed Rubythroat and Tibetan Dwarf Hamster (bottom)
Rufous-necked Snowfinch and Prince Henri’s Snowfinch (top)
White-rumped Snowfinch and Black-winged Snowfinch (middle)
Tibetan Fox and Plateau Pika (bottom)
Desert Wheatear and Grey-crested Tit (top)
Black Redstart and Chinese Song Thrush (middle)
Isabelline Shrike and Eurasian Nutcracker (bottom)
Biddulph’s Ground Jay and White-winged Woodpecker (top)
White-throated Dipper and Azure Tit (middle)
Hoopoe and Barred Warbler (bottom)
Systematic List

PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae
Great Crested Grebe    Podiceps cristatus
Black-necked Grebe    Podiceps nigricollis

PELECANIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae
Great Cormorant        Phalacrocorax carbo

CICONIIFORMES: Ardeidae
Grey Heron             Ardea cinerea
Purple Heron           Ardea purpurea
* Western Great Egret   Ardea alba
Eastern Great Egret    Ardea [alba] modesta
Little Egret           Egretta garzetta
Chinese Pond Heron     Ardeola bacchus
* Little Bittern       Ixobrychus minutus
Eastern Cattle Egret   Bubulcus coromandus

CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae
* Black Stork           Ciconia nigra

ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae
Greylag Goose          Anser anser
Bar-headed Goose       Anser indicus
Whooper Swan           Cygnus cygnus
Ruddy Shelduck         Tadorna ferruginea
Gadwall                Anas strepera
Mallard                Anas platyrhynchos
Northern Shoveler      Anas clypeata
Red-crested Pochard    Netta rufina
Common Pochard         Aythya ferina
Tufted Duck            Aythya fuligula
Common Goldeneye       Bucephala clangula
Goosander              Mergus merganser

ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae
Black-eared Kite       Milvus [milgrans] lineatus
Lammergeier            Gypaetus barbatus
Himalayan Griffon      Gyps himalayensis
* Monk Vulture  
Eurasian Sparrowhawk  
Upland Buzzard  
* Long-legged Buzzard  
Golden Eagle  
* Booted Eagle

**FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae**
- Eurasian Kestrel: Falco tinnunculus
- Eurasian Hobby: Falco subbuteo
- Saker Falcon: Falco cherrug
- * Barbary Falcon: Falco pelegrinoides

**GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae**
- Szeczenyi's Monal Partridge: Tetraophasis szeczenyi
- Tibetan Snowcock: Tetraogallus tibetanus
- Przevalski's Partridge: Alectoris magnacauda
- Daurian Partridge: Perdix daurica
- Tibetan Partridge: Perdix hodgsoni
- Blood Pheasant: Ithaginis cruentus
- White Eared Pheasant: Crossoptilon crossoptilon
- Common Pheasant: Phasianus colchicus suehschanensis

**GRUIFORMES: Gruidae**
- Black-necked Crane: Grus nigricollis

**GRUIFORMES: Rallidae**
- Common Moorhen: Gallinula chloropus
- * Eurasian Coot: Fulica atra

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Ibidorhynchidae**
- Ibisbill: Ibidorhyncha struthersii

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvirostridae**
- Black-winged Stilt: Himantopus himantopus

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae**
- Little Ringed Plover: Charadrius dubius
- Lesser Sandplover: Charadrius [mongolus] atrifrons

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae**
- Eurasian Curlew: Numenius arquata
- Common Redshank: Tringa totanus
- Green Sandpiper: Tringa ochropus
- Wood Sandpiper: Tringa glareola
- Common Sandpiper: Actitis hypoleucos

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae**
- Pallas's Gull: Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus
- * Caspian Gull: Larus cachinnans
- * Black-headed Gull: Larus ridibundus
- Brown-headed Gull: Larus brunnicephalus

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Sternidae**
- Common Tern: Sterna hirundo tibetana
- * Siberian Tern: Sterna hirundo hirundo
- * White-winged Black Tern: Chlidonias leucopterus
- * Whiskered Tern: Chlidonias hybridus

**PTEROCLIDIFORMES: Pteroclidae**
- Tibetan Sandgrouse: Syrrhaptes tibetanus
- Pallas's Sandgrouse: Syrrhaptes paradoxus
**COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae**
- Hill Pigeon: *Columba rupestris*
- Rock Pigeon: *Columba livia*
- Snow Pigeon: *Columba leuconota*
- Laughing Dove: *Streptopelia senegalensis*
- Eurasian Collared Dove: *Streptopelia decaocto*
- Oriental Turtle Dove: *Streptopelia orientalis orientalis*
- *Streptopelia orientalis meena*

**CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae**
- Common Cuckoo: *Cuculus canorus*

**STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae**
- Little Owl: *Athene noctua inpasta*
- Eurasian Eagle Owl: *Bubo bubo*

**APODIFORMES: Apodidae**
- Common Swift: *Apus apus pekinensis*
- Salim Ali's Swift: *Apus salimali*

**CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae**
- Eurasian Bee-eater: *Merops apiaster*

**CORACIIFORMES: Upupidae**
- Hoopoe: *Upupa epops*

**PICIFORMES: Picidae**
- Eurasian Wryneck: *Jynx torquilla*
- Great Spotted Woodpecker: *Dendrocopos major*
- *White-winged Woodpecker: Dendrocopos leucopterus*
- Three-toed Woodpecker: *Picoides tridactylus funebris*
- Black Woodpecker: *Dryocopus martius*
- Grey-faced Woodpecker: *Picus canus sordidor*

**PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae**
- Tibetan Lark: *Melanocorypha maxima*
- Mongolian Lark: *Melanocorypha mongolica*
- Hume’s Short-toed Lark: *Calandrella acutirostris tibetana*
- Crested Lark: *Galerida cristata*
- Oriental Skylark: *Alauda gulgula*
- Horned Lark: *Eremophila alpestris khamensis*

**PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae**
- Pale Martin: *Riparia diluta tibetana*
- Eurasian Crag Martin: *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*
- Barn Swallow: *Hirundo rustica*
- Red-rumped Swallow: *Cecropis daurica*
- Asian House Martin: *Delichon dasypus*
- *Northern House Martin: Delichon urbicum*

**PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae**
- Himalayan Wagtail: *Motacilla alba alboidea*
- Amur Wagtail: *Motacilla alba leucopepsis*
- *Masked Wagtail: Motacilla alba personata*
- *Citrine Wagtail: Motacilla citreola citreola*
- Tibetan Wagtail: *Motacilla [citreola] calcara*
- *Eastern Yellow Wagtail: Motacilla tschutschensis macronyx*
- Grey Wagtail: *Motacilla cinerea*
- Richard’s Pipit: *Anthus richardi*
- Olive-backed Pipit: *Anthus hodgsoni hodgsoni*
- *Tree Pipit: Anthus trivialis*
- Rosy Pipit: *Anthus roseatus*
PASSERIFORMES: Regulidae
Goldcrest  Regulus regulus yunnanensis

PASSERIFORMES: Cinclidae
White-throated Dipper  Cinclus cinclus przewalskii
White-throated Dipper  Cinclus cinclus leucogaster

PASSERIFORMES: Troglodytidae
Winter Wren  Troglodytes troglodytes szetschuanus

PASSERIFORMES: Prunellidae
Robin Accentor  Prunella rubeculoides
Rufous-breasted Accentor  Prunella strophiata
Black-throated Accentor  Prunella atrogularis
Brown Accentor  Prunella fulvescens
Alpine Accentor  Prunella collaris

PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae
Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush  Monticola saxatilis
Mistle Thrush  Turdus viscivorus
Eurasian Blackbird  Turdus merula intermedius
Chinese Blackbird  Turdus mandarinus
Chestnut Thrush  Turdus rubrocanus gouldi
Kessler’s Thrush  Turdus kessleri
Chinese Song Thrush  Turdus mupinensis

PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae
Severtzov’s Tit Warbler  Leptopoecile sophiae obscura
Crested Tit Warbler  Leptopoecile elegans
Great Reed Warbler  Acrocephalus arundinaceus
Eurasian Reed Warbler  Acrocephalus scirpaceus fuscus
Paddyfield Warbler  Acrocephalus agricola
Barred Warbler  Sylvia nisoria
Smoky Warbler  Phylloscopus fuligiventer weigoldi
Alpine (Tickell’s) Leaf Warbler  Phylloscopus [affinis] occisinensis
Buff-barred Warbler  Phylloscopus pulcher pulcher
Gansu Leaf Warbler  Phylloscopus kansuensis
Sichuan Leaf Warbler  Phylloscopus [chloronotus] forresti
Hume’s Leaf Warbler  Phylloscopus humei mandellii
Greenish Warbler  Phylloscopus trochiloides
Claudia’s Leaf Warbler  Phylloscopus claudiae

PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae
Slaty-backed Flycatcher  Ficedula Hodgsonii
Siberian Rubythroat  Luscinia calliope
Himalayan Rubythroat  Luscinia pectoralis tschebaiewi
Siberian Bluetail  Tarsiger cyanurus albocoeruleus
Himalayan Bluetail  Tarsiger rutilatus rutilatus
Przevalski’s Redstart  Phoenicurus alaschanicus
Black Redstart  Phoenicurus ochruros rufiventris
Hodgson’s Redstart  Phoenicurus Hodgsoni
White-throated Redstart  Phoenicurus Schisticeps
Daurian Redstart  Phoenicurus Auroreus
Güldenstädt’s Redstart  Phoenicurus erythrogastrus
Blue-fronted Redstart  Phoenicurus Frontalis
Blue-capped Redstart  Phoenicurus Caeruleoccephala
Eversmann’s Redstart  Phoenicurus erythrotonus
White-capped Redstart  Chaimarrornis Leucocephalus
Pilumbeous Redstart  Rhocornis Fuliginosus
Siberian Stonechat  Saxicola maura przewalskii
Grandala  Grandala Coelicolor
Isabelline Wheatear  Oenanthe isabellina
Pied Wheatear  Oenanthe Pleschanka
Desert Wheatear  Oenanthe Deserti
PASSERIFORMES: Timaliidae
Kozlov’s Babax Babax koslowi
Pere David’s Laughingthrush Pterorhinus davidi
Giant Laughingthrush Ianthocincla maximus
Elliot’s Laughingthrush Garrulax eliotii
Chinese Bush-dweller Rhophophilus pekinensis pekinensis
* Rhophophilus pekinensis albosuperciliarus

PASSERIFORMES: Timaliidae
* Bearded Reedling Panurus biarmicus

PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae
Margelanic Whitethroat Sylvia [minula] margelanica
* Small Whitethroat Sylvia minula
Common Whitethroat Sylvia communis
Barred Warbler Sylvia boris

PASSERIFORMES: Paridae
Willow Tit Poecile montanus affinis
Sichuan Tit Poecile [songarus] weigoldei
White-browed Tit Poecile superciliosus
Rufous-vented Tit Periparus rubidiventris
Grey-crested Tit Lophophanes dichrous
* Great Tit Parus major turkestanicus
* Azure Tit Parus cyanus tianshanicus
* Coal Tit Parus ater rufipectus
Parus ater aemodius
Hume’s Ground Tit Pseudopodoces humilis

PASSERIFORMES: Sittidae
Chinese Nuthatch Sitta villosa bangsi
Przevalski’s Nuthatch Sitta przewalskii

PASSERIFORMES: Tichodromidae
Wallcreeper Tichodroma muraria

PASSERIFORMES: Certhiidae
Hodgson’s Treecreeper Certhia hodgsoni

PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae
* Brown Shrike Lanius cristatus lucionensis
* Isabelline Shrike Lanius isabellinus phoenicuroides
* Lanius isabellinus arenarius
Grey-backed Shrike Lanius tephronotus
Tibetan Grey Shrike Lanius [sphenocercus] giganteus

PASSERIFORMES: Dicruridae
Black Drongo Dicrurus macrocercus

PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae
Eurasian Jay Garrulus glandarius kansuensis
Azure-winged Magpie Cyanopica cyanus kansuensis
Eurasian Magpie Pica pica bottanensis
Pica pica sericea
* Biddulph’s Ground Jay Podoces biddulphi
Henderson’s Ground Jay Podoces hendersoni
Spotted Nutcracker Nucifraga caryocatactes macella
Red-billed Chough Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax himalayanus
Yellow-billed Chough Pyrrhocorax graculus digitatus
Daurian Jackdaw Corvus dauuricus insolens
Rook Corvus frugilegus pastinator
Carrion Crow Corvus [corone] orientalis
Large-billed Crow Corvus japonensis tibetosinensis
Common Raven Corvus corax tibetanus
**PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae**
- White-cheeked Starling  *Spodiospar cineraceus*
- Eurasian Starling  *Sturnus vulgaris*

**PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae**
- Black-faced Bunting  *Emberiza spodocephala*
- Kozlov's Bunting  *Emberiza kaslowi*
- Pine Bunting  *Emberiza leucocephalos fronto*
- *Godlewski's Bunting  *Emberiza godlewskii*
- Meadow Bunting  *Emberiza cioides*
- Reed Bunting  *Emberiza schoeniclus centralasiae*

**PASSERIFORMES: Urocynchramidae**
- Pink-tailed Finch  *Urocynchramus pylzowi*

**PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae**
- Plain Mountain Finch  *Leucosticte nemoricola*
- Brandt's Mountain Finch  *Leucosticte brandti*
- *Desert Finch  *Rhodospiza obsoleta*
- Mongolian Finch  *Bucanetes mongolicus*
- Common Rosefinch  *Carpodacus erythrinus roseatus*
- Chinese Beautiful Rosefinch  *Carpodacus davidianus*
- Pink-rumped Rosefinch  *Carpodacus eos*
- Pale Rosefinch  *Carpodacus synoicus beicki*
- Three-banded Rosefinch  *Carpodacus triscissus*
- Chinese White-browed Rosefinch  *Carpodacus dubius*
- Streaked Rosefinch  *Carpodacus rubicilloides*
- *Spotted Great Rosefinch  *Carpodacus severtzovi*
- Red-mantled Rosefinch  *Carpodacus rhodochlamys*
- Red-fronted Rosefinch  *Carpodacus puniceus*
- Roborovski's Rosefinch  *Carpodacus roborowskii*
- *Red Crossbill  *Loxia curvirostra*
- Oriental Greenfinch  *Carduelis sinica*
- Twite  *Carduelis flavirostris miniakensis*
- Tibetan Siskin  *Serinus thibetanus*
- *Fire-fronted Serin  *Serinus pusillus*
- Grey-headed Bullfinch  *Pyrrhula erythaca*
- White-winged Grosbeak  *Mycerobas carnipes*

**PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae**
- Russet Sparrow  *Passer rutilans*
- Eurasian Tree Sparrow  *Passer montanus*
- House Sparrow  *Passer domesticus*
- *Saxual Sparrow  *Passer ammodendri atoliczkae*
- Rock Sparrow  *Petronia petronia brevirostris*
- Henri's Snowfinch  *Montifringilla henrici*
- Black-winged Snowfinch  *Montifringilla adamsi*
- White-rumped Snowfinch  *Onychostethus taczanowskii*
- Père David's Snowfinch  *Pyrgilauda davidiana*
- Rufous-necked Snowfinch  *Pyrgilauda ruficollis*
- Blanford's Snowfinch  *Montifringilla blanfordi*

**MAMMALS**
- Tibetan Macaque  *Macaca thibetana*
- Himalayan Marmot  *Marmota himalayana*
- Plateau Pika  *Ochotona curzoniae*
- Chinese Red Pika  *Ochotona erythrotis*
- Woolly Hare  *Lepus oiostolus*
- *Tarim Basin Hare  *Lepus yarkandi*
- Tibetan Fox  *Vulpes ferrilata*
- Red Fox  *Vulpes vulpes*
- Wolf  *Canis lupus*
- Asian Badger  *Meles leucurus*
- Kiang  *Equus hemionus*
- Red Deer  *Cervus elaphus*
White-lipped Deer  
*Tibetan Gazelle  
*Goitered Gazelle  
Domestic Yak  
Blue Sheep

*Cervus albirostris  
*Procapra picticaudata  
*Gazella subgutturosa  
*Bos grunniens  
*Pseudois nayaur

* species recorded only in Xinjiang

**Bird-of-the-tour**

1. Biddulph's Ground Jay
2. Blackthroat
3. Tibetan Sandgrouse
4. Pink-tailed Finch
5. Kozlov's Bunting

*White-rumped Snowfinch, Tibetan plateau*  © James Eaton/Birldtour Asia

For information regarding our tours to Tibet or other areas of China please click [here](#). Alternatively please contact us via [e-mail](#) regarding organising a custom tour to India.