Sichuan (and Shaanxi), China
24th May – 12th June 2015
Leader: James Eaton and Mike Nelson
Participants: Michael Goddard, Andrew Herbert, Mark and Fran Sullivan, Martin Wootton, Keith and Lyn Youngs

The vast area covered by China is a major birding destinations packed with endemics and localised specialities but also offering large and diverse species lists. Top among all of these is Sichuan, where stunning scenery, exciting cuisine and magic birding combine into one of Asia's top birding destinations.

As we were in the fortunate position of obtaining permission to visit a reserve to see the highly sought-after Blackthroat, a seldom-seen robin draped in mysticism until 2011 when its breeding grounds were located in the Qinling mountains of Shaanxi province, we began the tour there rather than Sichuan. Even booking into our Xi’an hotel it looked a wise decision as the hotel grounds held migrant Daurian Starling – a new bird for everyone, White-cheeked Starling, Brown Shrike and Azure-winged Magpies scrambling about.

By mid-morning on our first day we were enjoying binocular-filling views of nesting Crested Ibis right by the roadside. In 1981 7 birds were rediscovered in this area, and with careful conservation management the population now stands at over 1000 birds – a real conservation success story. In the gardens besides the ibis several Eastern Crowned Warbler and a huge swarm of Black-throated Bushtit buzzed around us, while a splendid male Yellow-rumped Flycatcher lurked silently in the background.

After more typical Chinese countryside birds we found more Crested Ibis, along with nesting Long-billed Plover and a striking Crested Kingfisher, then it was time to head off into the hills in preparation for the main event.
Full of anticipation, we stealthily walked through the bamboo-cloaked hillside, though with the cool, overcast weather little was calling, with very few birds seen or even heard, bar a Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler continually circling round our knees and a Indian Blue Robin singing in the open. A Blackthroat called, quietly and briefly, without showing any interest, so we continued, ever upwards. A glimmer of sun, the parting of the clouds and hope, and the birds were suddenly bouncing off the bamboo and trees all around us. Our first of several Spectacled Parrotbill appeared, much more cooperative than the Three-toed Parrotbill that fed quietly, just inside the bamboo making viewing difficult for some of us. Aiming for something bigger, we soon had a pair of Great Parrotbills staring down at us. Sooty Bushtit made its first of several appearances here, though a White-backed Woodpecker was seen predominantly in flight, back-and-forth over us. Edging a little higher we finally heard what we wanted – Blackthroat, and it was already close. With some gentle manoeuvring and a bucket-load of patience we were amply rewarded as the bird circled us on several occasions, eventually becoming predictable in his singing locations in the bamboo giving us views on numerous occasions before we agreed to leave him in peace.

Flushed with success we enjoyed the scenic walk back down and could relax for the afternoons birding. It was just that until a cry from the forest had us wanting more, as a resplendent male Temminck's Tragopan sat on the exact fallen log it was supposed to, for a few precious seconds.

Heading lower down, a female Golden Pheasant by the roadside fled upslope, just viewable through the grass though the best was yet to come as our local guide pointed into the tall trees opposite the river and bang, a huge Tawny Fish Owl was sat in full view, occasionally ruffling its feathers and peering over towards us.

Not wanting to disturb them and satisfied with our views, we opted for different spots the next day. We enjoyed plenty of new birds, including several sought-after species, starting off with an incredible pair of Barred Laughingthrush that eventually sat out in the mid-canopy, doing their thing, next was a singing Baikal Bush Warbler and a nest-building pair of forest-dwelling Slaty Bunting, a Chinese endemic. Yesterday's tragopan put in a very brief appearance, yet more curious Sooty Bushtits came within touching distance and our warbler list continued on an upward trajectory with Chestnut-crowned, Hume's Leaf and a surprise White-spectacled Warbler, a couple of Brown Bush Warbler also showed in the bamboo, and a Pygmy Cupwing was also enjoyed. Another bonus was White-browed Shortwing, showing unusually well, the Qinling birds oddly being of the pale taxon *sinensis*, which is otherwise largely restricted to southeast China - this complex will be carved up in the near-future so it was great to get this little-known taxon.

Birding lower down in the early afternoon produced a Chinese Bamboo Partridge raucously calling on top of a rock, a family of Yellow-throated Bunting, several Grey-crowned Warbler in the scrubby areas and the Tawny Fish Owl once again. Some of us opted for a visit to see the habituated (but wild) Golden Snub-nosed Monkeys, and were treated to amazing views of one of the world’s most spectacular primates.

Unfortunately we had to leave Shaanxi for Sichuan, but with a couple of hours birding in the morning we squeezed in Chinese Hwamei, Alstrom's, Buff-throated and Sulphur-breasted Warblers, more Sooty Bushtits and even the newly described (2015!) Sichuan Bush Warbler teased out to give clear views. It was then time to fly across to Sichuan, arriving at Jiuzhaigou airport in the late afternoon – just enough time to squeeze in some lovely Blue Eared Pheasants and a male Blood Pheasant to finish the day off.

We gave ourselves two full days inside the scenically stunning Jiuzhaigou National Park. By means of the super-efficient transport system, with electric buses that deliver thousands of Chinese tourists daily to some of the most iconic landscapes in China we were able to bird the higher elevations of the park as we passed by a series of crystal clear lakes and shimmering waterfalls, besides being entertained by the Chinese posing for photos

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*Tawny Fish Owl and Blackthroat, Shaanxi*
and the now ubiquitous ‘selfie’ obsession! Our aim of course was to get away from the crowds and so we headed straight for a valley famous for the enigmatic Rufous-headed Robin on our first morning, a species which is currently known to breed only within Jiuzhaigou and even here only single figures of pairs are known. It didn’t take long for us to hear the delightful, nightingale-like song of the Rufous-headed Robin. This particular robin is notoriously difficult to locate, moving effortlessly and invisibly through the forest, and frequently avoiding sight even when they might appear to be oh-so-close. After a pep talk and detailing the difficulties of locating the bird, we chose our spot carefully only to find the robin right in front of us, too busy feeding to being bothered by our presence! The bird continued to hop around, even perching on a stump, twice for jaw-dropping views before melting away in the forest. How about that!

Everything else paled into insignificance for the rest of our stay here, though we still had some great birding. Pere David’s Tit appeared twice, Grey-headed Bullfinch was a regular presence throughout the day, Maroon-backed Accentor was found post-bath, and a Sukatchev’s Laughingthrush circled and continued to feed around us for several minutes, even while hoards of tourists poured by, infatuated by our birding mannerisms! The presence of a ‘VIP’ inside the park the following morning caused no end of frustration, as half the park remained closed (the half we intended on visiting!) and it was a couple of extra hours before we reached Long Lake – the highest area of the park accessible to the public. As it was already hot and mid-morning by the time we got there, along with the throng of tourists birding was slow. White-winged Grosbeak performed, as did a few new warblers and tits, with Bar-tailed Treecreeper and White-bellied Robin (formally a redstart) being the highlight. In the afternoon, birding outside the park produced a few new birds – Black-streaked Scimitar Babbler, Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler (which was just as good as its name!), along with Spectacled Fulvetta and umpteen Chinese Leaf Warblers.

Leaving Jiuzhaigou exceedingly early paid dividends, as despite the light rain we were soon gasping at a pair of Pere David’s Owl sat allopreening in the spotlight. It was a memorable occasion watching the male, then as we turned round the female came floating slowly over, and landing right next to him in our beam. For the rest of the day, despite making no attempt to see the birds, we had the male follow on numerous occasions, seemingly following us, calling all the way up to the late morning even perching on top of a tree stump, mobbed by Kessler’s and Chestnut Thrushes and even a Maroon-backed Accentor! The morning was fantastic, not just for the owls, as we scored Blue Eared-Pheasant once more, pair of Chinese Fulvetta, a pair of Three-banded Rosefinch singing from treetops, a flock of nomadic and seldom-seen Blanford’s Rosefinch, more Blood Pheasant, Crested Tit Warbler for Mike, and even a Severztov’s Grouse for most of us, feeding quietly in a budding bush. At the end, just as we were about to jump on the bus, Mike spotted a Yellow-legged Buttonquail by the side of the road (for his second China tour running!), which scampered around, looking rather lost, evidently pushed down by the weather, in the roadside bushes.

Our afternoon drive climbing slightly on to the Tibetan plateau was rather uneventful, bar another Blue Eared-Pheasant and a nice male Siberian Rubythroat. We did pick up our first Ground Tits, Black-winged Snowfinch and Rock Sparrows, while in the distance 3 Wolves were strolling through the domestic yak-infested meadows.

We had a morning at Baxi Forest, one of our favoured sites on the circuit. As usual, it didn’t disappoint and the roadside bushes and trees provided plenty of activity. Nesting Przewalski’s Nuthatch, singing Sichuan Tit, a bucketload of Grey-headed Bullfinch, Godlewski’s Bunting, more Blue Eared-Pheasant (feeding in the fields with Common Pheasant!) and White-throated Redstart all obliged. We ventured inside the forest where we found another Severztov’s Grouse, this time for us all to admire as he dropped down from a bush to edge across a large gap in the foliage.
As our targets had been met, we ventured onto the open plateau for our fill of Black-necked Crane, White-rumped and Rufous-necked Snowfinches, Sakar, only a small number of Upland Buzzard and a single Monk Vulture. Though the highlight was watching two Wolves chase down a baby yak and pin it to the ground before the herd of domestic yak came running over, chasing off the wolves, tails firmly between their legs – no doubt they would be back later for the young yak that was a little worse for wear. We finished off the day with the regular pair of Tibetan Grey Shrike, once again nesting in the roadside bushes (we first found the nest in 2007).

Heading south, eventually dropping off the plateau the following day we were in for a bonus. Last year, on Rob’s Sichuan tour they located Przewalski’s Pinktail (often erroneously named Pink-tailed Finch/Bunting – as it’s actually neither with it being in its own, monotypic family), possibly the first singing birds located in the province for a very long time. Though the weather was gloomy, fighting back the wind and rain to enjoy ‘Tibetan’ Wagtail (the beautifully striking Tibetan form of Citrine) and hulking Tibetan Larks, after much walking and searching we finally found the holy grail, as the Pintktail was perched up in all its splendour, flashing his pink tail towards us. We enjoyed the bird for a considerable length of time, also finding nesting White-browed Tit, 2 pairs of Tibetan Partridge, Robin Accentor and yet another active Tibetan Grey Shrike nest.

The rest of the journey was scenic, with a few additional birds, and being halted by an impressive Tibetan ceremony to welcome a ‘VIM’ (Very Important Monk). Severtzov’s Tit Warbler was so confiding we could take pictures with our camera phones, and the fresh yogurt at a local farm was wonderful – especially as we could eat it while watching Siberian Roe and Red Deers on the slopes above us. We finally dropped elevation and entered the deep gorge and the Tibetan town of Maerkang for the evening.

Severtzov’s Tit Warbler and Przewalski’s Pinktail

The nearby mountain of Mengbi has long been the stakeout for Sichuan Jay on the circuit, though it’s become noticeably more difficult as the years have passed. Despite the lack of corvid, an excellent mornings birding produced a fine ‘supporting cast’, 18 White Eared Pheasants dotted the distant slopes with a pair also just above the roadside, Blood Pheasant and Verreaux’s Monal Partridges took it in turn to swipe our heads off with very close flyovers, a Common Crossbill crunched the conifer cones at eye-level just in front of us as a pair of Three-banded Rosefinch flew around. A pair of Pink-rumped Rosefinch was the only sighting of the trip, among the hoards of Chinese White-browed. A singing Long-tailed Thrush refused to let slip the notoriously elusive reputation Zoothera’s keep. Crested Tit Warbler put in two further appearances, a Hodgson’s Treecreeper sang away, Himalayan Bluetail dazzled, Collared and White-winged Grosbeak on multiple occasions, and a pair of Chinese Fulvetta passed by. It was a hot day, with little birding activity during most of the afternoon but as always, it’s quality of quantity and a pair of Verreaux’s Monal Partridge blew us away, raucously calling back-and-forth either on the road on the grassy verge, or on a tree stump – at one point even a police car had to beep them out the way. Finally, at 5pm a distant call alerted us once again (Giant Laughingthrush seem to amuse themselves, mimicking the jays!) and a lone Sichuan Jay glided in, perching on a treetop, though a bit distant, it was immensely satisfying as it sat there for over 20 minutes. The curtains were drawn once we located yet another Laughingthrush - Chinese Babax.

Our Mengbi mission remained uncompleted however, so the next morning we eventually found a Long-tailed Thrush singing from the treetops, allowing us to proceed to Wolong, possibly the centrepiece of the tour. During the drive we had brilliant views of the unique Wallcreeper impressively jumping up the sheer rock face to snatch its prey, several Hill Pigeon and after plenty of searching, a singing male hensici Long-tailed Rosefinch – this insular race a taxon ripe for splitting from the pale, vocally distinct Siberian migrants.

Two full days on and around Balang Shan, situated inside Wolong World Heritage Site, barely does this wonderful site justice. Our only blip was the lack of Wood Snipe – which worryingly had not returned to their
lek this year – but the plethora of fine, technicolour chickens was breathtaking. Once again the most pleasing aspect was the prolonged, close views we got of them all. We were quite strategic in our birding locations, keen to avoid the thick mist and rain that was always present somewhere on the mountain. First morning we stayed high, cleaning up on all our wanted species. Starting with Red-fronted Rosefinch (and Plain Mountain Finch) practically singing at our feet (we would also have displaying males in the sunlight later that morning), then a rather lost-looking male Blood Pheasant in the open grassland, a pair of Snow Partridge failed in their attempts to conceal themselves among the scree and rocky outcrops. Further on we second guessed a pair of Tibetan Snowcock that flew below us, manically calling before pumping their tails as they ran upslope then crossed the road, slowly walking up the steep hillside with regular stops – seems it wasn’t only us that were suffering from the altitude! Resplendent male Grandala were surrounded by a huge flock of Brandt’s Mountain Finch, yet another Snow Partridge, Snow Pigeon, Alpine Chough, and to cap it all off, a male Streaked Rosefinch perched on the road barrier.

Lower down a different selection of birds added many new favourites; the seldom-encountered Sharpe’s Rosefinch were found quietly feeding – 2 males and 6 female in total, along with Tibetan Siskin, several brief views of White-browed Bush Robin, a confiding pair of Golden Bush Robin, but best of all was a Plain-backed Thrush singing right on top of a conifer above us. To cap off the day, several male Himalayan Rubythroat were sat on top of anything they could fine – fencing, heather, rocks or rusty posts – to sing away in the early evening sunshine.
With weather a noticeable improvement around the ‘monal spot’ we didn’t have to wait long after dawn for the first male Chinese Monal to appear, high up the hillside. As the morning progressed, so did our views, culminating in a total of 3 adult males and an immature male, the latter feeding on the downslope while one of the adults performed a wonderful flyby, aiming straight for us before banking away. Koklass Pheasant remained frustratingly out of view but we increased our tally of mammals with Tufted Deer, Chinese Goral and another Hog Badger, all feeding above us. 14 White Eared Pheasant, in 3 groups, also occupied the hillsides. Hooked on pheasants we wanted to continue our success with them. Heading down once more, one male Golden refused to budge from his hidden perch while we notched up 3 male Firethroat, including one chasing away a White-browed Bush Robin – not very often you end up disappointed with the sight of a Firethroat randomly appearing in view! After ‘admiring’ the subtleties of Aberrant Bush Warbler we had wonderful views of the usually retiring Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler. Rain and mist did halt us over our lunch and siesta, and with it being our final chance of Golden Pheasant we opted for the valley bottom. With a slim chance of finding one, we couldn’t believe our luck when a male flew up, presumably chased up by the rogue domestic tabby, and landed in a tree just 50 metres from us, remaining there for several nervous minutes before retreating into the forest. To cap off the day an adult male Spot-winged Grosbeak flew past, landing in a tree for great scope views.

Golden Parrotbill and Emei Liocichla

Streaked Barwing and Gold-fronted Fulvetta

A pre-breakfast stroll above our hotel before a long travel day produced our only Black-browed Bushtit of the trip, after hearing them most days finally we found a perched Lesser Cuckoo, while rosefinches were out in force with further views of Three-banded being the highlight. Giant Laughingthrush retained its position as the showiest laugher of the trip, with several feeding by the roadside or singing and preening on open branches.
Mammals also appeared with a new pika (still to be identified) and a Tufted Deer grazing on the rocky scree below us. A long, uneventful drive to Er Lang (bar a Chinese Thrush for Lyn, and more babax for the rest of us) for the rest of the day took us through plenty of picturesque Tibetan scenery, ready for yet more goodies at our next site.

The old, disused road over Er Lang Shan is starting to crumble away but fortunately it means traffic is almost non-existent so birds like Firethroat – one of the first birds we clapped eyes on in the morning – offer much better views at the roadside. We spent the early part of the morning driving up-and-down in the hope of finding galliforms on the road, which drew a blank. So after breakfast and the Firethroat we had a short stroll, picking up some newbies – Green Shrike Babbler, White-browed Fulvetta and Slaty Blue Flycatcher, along with Black-browed Bushtit and Mrs Gould’s Sunbird once again. Martin spotted a Lady Amherst’s Pheasant on the road way, way below us so off we went back down, finding the bird at considerably closer range for good views, albeit through the windscreen. We walked for the rest of the afternoon, enjoying the general birding with plenty of activity – warblers were abundant, and a nice comparison was had with both Grey-crowned and Marten’s Warblers being present, segregated only by habitat preference. Chinese Babax were really out in force and allowed for prolonged views before we were disturbed by the distinctive, quiet call of Moupinia. We soon found a pair, though being rather more furtive than usual, it was really satisfying finding a single later on in the morning that performed as they should, spinning us in circles!

In the afternoon we opted for the higher reaches of the road, unfortunately we were unable to go further than we had hoped due to a massive rock in the middle of the road! Still, this was a blessing, as we had a productive time. A party of Brown Parrotbill fed within feet of us, followed by a pair of Dark-rumped Rosefinch, and a brief Great Parrotbill. Further along several Sharpe’s Rosefinch appeared including a male that we couldn’t kick away! Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush, Grey-hooded and more White-browed Fulvetta followed, along with Yellow-bellied and Grey-crested Tits. A female ‘Lady A’ then appeared on the drive down, and as the rain set in for the afternoon we called it quits while we were still ahead.

We had an afternoon and 2 full days birding at Longcanggou, a reserve we have been visiting for the past couple of years as other sites in south Sichuan continue to remain closed. This continued to prove to be a good thing, as we found an array of birds that not only we would have expected at the traditional sites, but also a couple of mega bonuses.

Heading out in the afternoon for some rather casual birding in the lower reaches of the park soon proved a masterstroke. It was a hive of activity, kicking off with a close, agitated Fujian Niltava. Loads of Kloss’s Leaf Warblers, and Marten’s Warblers were finally conspicuous after two weeks of largely hearing them, a singing Emei Leaf Warbler also performed. Red-billed Leiothrix, Rufous-capped Babbler, Black-chinned Yuhina and Japanese White-eye were all new to the tour and a main composition of feeding flocks, with a single Red-tailed Minla and brief Pere David’s Fulvetta. Twice Buffy Laughingthrushes appeared, giving views that matched their wonderful 8-note calls but this all paled into insignificance when a Gold-fronted Fulvetta suddenly appeared in our view, remaining in view for a couple of minutes as we soaked in the clown-like plumage of this incredibly seldom-seen bird (even the field guide illustration is accurate with this beauty!) – James’s first sighting since 2005. To top off the afternoon, a male Chinese Blue Flycatcher finally caved into temptation and revealed itself in all it’s glory after a protracted run-around, with 3 Brown Bullfinch perched in the distant treetops.

A full day on the higher reaches of Longcanggou was fantastic – once again we were blessed with the weather – seldom-seen bird (even the field guide illustration is accurate with this beauty!) – James’s first sighting since 2005. To top off the afternoon, a male Chinese Blue Flycatcher finally caved into temptation and revealed itself in all it’s glory after a protracted run-around, with 3 Brown Bullfinch perched in the distant treetops.

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common and conspicuous through the morning, Sichuan Bush Warblers called high above us, and a pair of Spotted Forktail showed nicely on a roadside stream. A huge party of over 20 Buffy Laughingthrush fed quietly in front of us though otherwise the birding was rather subdued. A Pere David’s Fulvetta appeared at the roadside, lingering for a short while. Moving to a different village by the river several Yellow-rumped Flycatcher already had fledged young, Swinhoe’s Minivet appeared in the larger trees, singing, though a Dusky Fulvetta refused to play ball, allowing little more than views of a ‘dusky fulvetta’.

Then it was time to continue on to Chengdu, with a bit of birding to pick up Chinese Grosbeak, both Red-billed and White-cheeked Starling and a pair of Vinous-throated Parrotbill amid the locals diligently exercising in the local, and a final, sumptuous Sichuan dinner, and a chance to celebrate what had been a wonderfully successful tour with an enthusiastic, fun-loving group.

During the tour we recorded a total of 300 bird species of which 7 were heard only.

For information regarding our tours to Sichuan, or other Chinese destinations, please click here. Alternatively please contact us via email or telephone us +441332 516254 regarding organising a custom tour.

**Bird-of-the-tour**

1. Rufous-headed Robin
2. Pere David’s Owl
3. Tibetan Snowcock
4. Streaked Barwing
5. Firethroat
Top: Giant Laughingthrush and Pere David’s Owl
Middle: Crested Ibis and Sichuan Bush Warbler
Bottom: Sooty Bushtit and Yellow-throated Bunting
Top: Baikal Bush Warbler and Grey-headed Bullfinch
Middle: White-winged Grosbeak and Black-streaked Scimitar Babbler
Bottom: Maroon-backed Accentor and Blue Eared Pheasant
Top: White Eared Pheasant and Verreaux’s Monal Partridge
Middle: White-rumped Snowfinch and Tibetan Grey Shrike
Bottom: Sichuan Tit and Przewalski’s Pinktail
Top: Crested Tit Warbler and Chinese White-browed Rosefinch
Middle: Red-fronted Rosefinch and Long-tailed Rosefinch
Bottom: Hodgson’s Redstart and Wallcreeper
Top: Dark-rumped Rosefinch and Himalayan Griffon
Middle: Brown Parrotbill and Moupinia
Bottom: Buffy Laughingthrush and Green Shrike Babbler
Top: Spotted Bush Warbler and Grey-hooded Parrotbill
Middle: Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler and Sichuan Treecreeper
Bottom: Pere David’s Tit and Three-toed Parrotbill
Top: Emei Leaf Warbler and Black-chinned Yuhina
Middle: Spotted Forktail and Yellow-rumped Flycatcher
Bottom: Wolves and domestic yak
## Systematic List

### ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae
- Ruddy Shelduck: *Tadorna ferruginea*
- Mallard: *Anas platyrhynchos*
- Goosander: *Mergus merganser*

### GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae
- Snow Partridge: *Lerwa lerwa*
- Verreaux’s Monal Partridge: *Tetraophasis obscurus*
- Tibetan Snowcock: *Tetraogallus tibetanus*
- Tibetan Partridge: *Perdix hodgsoniae*
- Chinese Bamboo Partridge: *Bambusicola thoracica*
- Blood Pheasant: *Ithaginis cruentus berezowskii*
- Temminck’s Tragopan: *Tragopan temminckii*
- Koklass Pheasant: *Pucrasia macrolopha ruficollis*
- Chinese Monal: *Lophophorus lhuysii*
- White Eared Pheasant: *Crossoptilon crossoptilon*
- Blue Eared Pheasant: *Crossoptilon auratum*
- Common Pheasant: *Phasianus colchicus suehschanensis*
- Golden Pheasant: *Chrysolophus pictus*
- Lady Amherst’s Pheasant: *Chrysolophus amherstiae*
- Severtzov’s Grouse: *Tetrastes sewerzowi*

### CICONIIFORMES: Threskiornithidae
- Crested Ibis: *Nipponia nippon*

### CICONIIFORMES: Ardeidae
- Grey Heron: *Ardea cinerea*
- Little Egret: *Egretta garzetta*
- Chinese Pond Heron: *Ardeola bacchus*
- Eastern Cattle Egret: *Bubulcus coromandus*
- Black-crowned Night Heron: *Casmerodius [albus] modestus*

### ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae
- Black Baza: *Aviceda leuphotes*
- Oriental Honeybuzzard: *Pernis ptitorhynchus orientalis*
- Black-eared Kite: *Milvus [milgrans] lineatus*
- Lammergeier: *Gypaetus barbatus*
- Himalayan Griffon: *Gyps himalayensis*
- Monk Vulture: *Aegypius monachus*
- Chinese Sparrowhawk: *Accipiter nisus*
- Eurasian Sparrowhawk: *Accipiter gentilis*
- Northern Goshawk: *Accipiter gentilis*
- Grey-faced Buzzard: *Buteastur indicus*
- Himalayan Buzzard: *Buteo refectus*
- Upland Buzzard: *Buteo hemilasius*
- Black Eagle: *Ictinaetus malayensis*
- Golden Eagle: *Aquila chrysaetos*

### GRUIFORMES: Rallidae
- White-breasted Waterhen: *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

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

### CHARADRIIFORMES: Turnicidae
- Yellow-legged Buttonquail: *Turnix tanki*

### CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae
| Little Ringed Plover                  | Charadrius dubius |
| Long-billed Plover                  | Charadrius placidus |

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae**
- Common Redshank                       | Tringa totanus |

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae**
- Brown-headed Gull                     | Larus brunnicephalus |
- Common Tern                            | Sterna hirundo tibetana |
- Little Tern                            | Sternum albigrons sinensis |

**COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae**
- Hill Pigeon                           | Columba rupestris |
- Snow Pigeon                           | Columba leucnota |
- Speckled Wood Pigeon                  | Columba hodgsonii |
- Oriental Turtle Dove                  | Streptopelia orientalis orientalis |
- Spotted Dove                          | Streptopelia chinensis |
- Red Collared Dove                     | Streptopelia tranquebarica |

**CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae**
- Large Hawk Cuckoo                     | Hierococcyx sparverioides |
- Hodgson’s Hawk Cuckoo                 | Hierococcyx nisicolor |
- Indian Cuckoo                         | Cuculus micropterus |
- Common Cuckoo                         | Cuculus canorus |
- Oriental Cuckoo                       | Cuculus saturatus |
- Lesser Cuckoo                         | Cuculus poliocephalus |
- Asian Koel                            | Eudynamys scolopacea |

**STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae**
- Little Owl                            | Athene noctua inpasta |
- Tawny Fish Owl                        | Bubo flavipes |
- Chinese Tawny Owl                     | Strix nivicola |
- Pere David’s Owl                      | Strix [uralensis] davidi |

**CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae**
- Grey Nightjar                         | Caprimulgus jotaka |

**APODIFORMES: Apodidae**
- Himalayan Swiftlet                    | Aerodramus brevirostris |
- White-throated Needletail             | Hirundapus caudacutus |
- Pacific Swift                         | Apus pacificus pacificus |
- Salim Ali’s Swift                     | Apus salimalii |
- House Swift                           | Apus nipalensis |

**CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae**
- Common Kingfisher                     | Alcedo atthis |
- Black-capped Kingfisher               | Halcyon pileata |
- Crested Kingfisher                    | Megaceryle lugubris |

**BUCEROTIFORMES: Upupidae**
- Hoopoe                                | Upupa epops |

**PICIFORMES: Picidae**
- Speckled Piculet                      | Picumnus innominatus |
- Darjeeling Woodpecker                 | Dendrocopos darjellensis |
- Crimson-breasted Woodpecker           | Dendrocopos caphnarius |
- White-backed Woodpecker               | Dendrocopos leucotos tangi |
- Great Spotted Woodpecker              | Dendrocopos major |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Order</th>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Species</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Eurasian Hobby</td>
<td>Falco subbuteo</td>
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<td>Saker Falcon</td>
<td>Falco cherrug</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peregrine Falcon</td>
<td>Falco peregrinus</td>
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<td><strong>PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Swinhoe's Minivet</td>
<td>Pericrocotus cantonensis</td>
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<td>Long-tailed Minivet</td>
<td>Pericrocotus ethologus</td>
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<td><strong>PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Brown Shrike</td>
<td>Lanius cristatus lucionensis</td>
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<td>Long-tailed Shrike</td>
<td>Lanius schach schah</td>
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<td>Grey-backed Shrike</td>
<td>Lanius tephronotus</td>
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<td>Tibetan Grey Shrike</td>
<td>Lanius [sphenocercus] giganteus</td>
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<td><strong>PASSERIFORMES: Vireonidae</strong></td>
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<td>Green Shrike Babbler</td>
<td>Pteruthius xanthochlorus pallidus</td>
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<td><strong>PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae</strong></td>
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<td>Black-naped Oriole</td>
<td>Oriolus chinensis</td>
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<td><strong>PASSERIFORMES: Dicruridae</strong></td>
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<td>Black Drongo</td>
<td>Dicrurus macrocercus</td>
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<td>Ashy Drongo</td>
<td>Dicrurus leucophaeus salangensis</td>
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<td>Hair-crested Drongo</td>
<td>Dicrurus hottentottus brevirostris</td>
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<td><strong>PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sichuan Jay</td>
<td>Perisoreus internigrans</td>
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<td>Eurasian Jay</td>
<td>Garrulus glandarius sinensis</td>
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<td>Azure-winged Magpie</td>
<td>Cyanopica cyana kansuensis</td>
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<td>Red-billed Blue Magpie</td>
<td>Urocissa erythrorhyncha</td>
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<td>Spotted Nutcracker</td>
<td>Nucifraga caryocatactes macella</td>
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<td>Red-billed Chough</td>
<td>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax himalayanus</td>
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<td>Yellow-billed Chough</td>
<td>Pyrrhocorax graculus digitatus</td>
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<td>Daurian Jackdaw</td>
<td>Corvus dauuricus insolens</td>
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<td>Carrion Crow</td>
<td>Corvus corone orientalis</td>
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<td>Collared Crow</td>
<td>Corvus torquatus</td>
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<td>Large-billed Crow</td>
<td>Corvus japonensis tibetosinensis</td>
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<td>Common Raven</td>
<td>Corvus corax tibetanus</td>
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<td><strong>PASSERIFORMES: Stenostiridae</strong></td>
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<td>Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher</td>
<td>Culicicapa ceylonensis</td>
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<td><strong>PASSERIFORMES: Paridae</strong></td>
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<td>Fire-capped Tit</td>
<td>Cephalopyrus flammiceps</td>
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<td>Yellow-browed Tit</td>
<td>Sylviparus modestus</td>
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<td>Sichuan Tit</td>
<td>Poecile [songarus] weigoldei</td>
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<td>White-browed Tit</td>
<td>Poecile superciliosa</td>
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<td>Pere David's Tit</td>
<td>Poecile davidi</td>
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<td>Coal Tit</td>
<td>Periparus ater aemodius</td>
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<td>Rufous-vented Tit</td>
<td>Periparus rubidiventris</td>
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<td>Yellow-bellied Tit</td>
<td>Pardaliparus venustulus</td>
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<td>Grey-crested Tit</td>
<td>Lophophanes dichrous</td>
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<td>Ground Tit</td>
<td>Pseudopodoces humilis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Japanese Tit</td>
<td>Parus minor minor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Green-backed Tit</td>
<td>Parus monticola</td>
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</table>
**PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae**
Tibetan Lark, *Melanocorypha maxima*
Oriental Skylark, *Alauda guilguila*
Horned Lark, *Eremophila alpestris khamensis*

**PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae**
Collared Finchbill, *Spizixos semitorques*
Brown-breasted Bulbul, *Pycnonotus xanthorrhous*
Chinese Bulbul, *Pycnonotus sinensis*
Mountain Bulbul, *Ixos mcclellandii*
Black Bulbul, *Hypsipetes leucocephalus leucothorax*

**PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae**
Eurasian Crag Martin, *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*
Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*
Red-rumped Swallow, *Cecropis daurica*
Asian House Martin, *Delichon dasypus*

**PASSERIFORMES: Pnoepygidiae**
Scaly-breasted Cupwing, *Pnoepyga albiventer*
Pygmy Cupwing, *Pnoepyga pusilla*

**PASSERIFORMES: Cettiidae**
Rufous-faced Warbler, *Abroscopus albogularis fulvifacies*
Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler, *Cettia major major*
Chestnut-headed Tesia, *Cettia c. castaneocoronata*
Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler, *Horornis fortipes davidiana*
Aberrant Bush Warbler, *Horornis flavolivacea intricata*
Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler, *Horornis acanthizoides acanthizoides*

**PASSERIFORMES: Aegithalidae**
Black-throated Bushtit, *Aegithalos concinnus concinnus*
Black-browed Bushtit, *Aegithalos iouschistos*
Sooty Bushtit, *Aegithalos fuliginosus*
Severtzov’s Tit Warbler, *Leptopoecile sophiae obscura*
Crested Tit Warbler, *Leptopoecile elegans elegans*

**PASSERIFORMES: Phylloscopidae**
Dusky Warbler, *Phylloscopus fuscatus robustus*
Alpine Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus [affinis] occisinensis*
Buff-throated Warbler, *Phylloscopus subaffinis*
Yellow-streaked Warbler, *Phylloscopus armandii armandii*
Buff-barred Warbler, *Phylloscopus pulcher pulcher*
Ashy-throated Warbler, *Phylloscopus maculipennis*
Sichuan Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus [chloronotus] forresti*
Chinese Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus yunnanensis*
Hume’s Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus humei mandellii*
Greenish Warbler, *Phylloscopus trochiloides*
Large-billed Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus magnirostris*
Claudia’s Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus claudiae*
Emei Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus emeiensis*
Kloss’s Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus ogilviegranerti disturbans*
Sulphur-breasted Warbler, *Phylloscopus ricketti*
Eastern Crowned Warbler, *Phylloscopus coronatus*
Grey-crowned Warbler, *Seicercus tephrocephalus*
Bianchi’s Warbler, *Seicercus valentini valentini*
Alstrom’s Warbler, *Seicercus soror*
Marten’s Warbler, *Seicercus omeiensis*
White-spectacled Warbler, *Seicercus affinis intermedius*
Chestnut-crowned Warbler, *Seicercus castaniceps sinensis*

**PASSERIFORMES: Locustellidae**
Spotted Bush Warbler, *Locustella thoracicus thoracicus*
Baikal Bush Warbler, *Locustella davidi*
Sichuan Bush Warbler  Locustella chengi
Brown Bush Warbler  Locustella luteoventris

**PASSERIFORMES: Timaliidae**
- Rufous-capped Babbler  Cyanoderma ruficeps
- Black-streaked Scimitar Babbler  Pomatorhinus gravivox
- Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler  Pomatorhinus ruficollis
- Dusky Fulvetta  Schoeniparus brunneus
- Pere David’s Fulvetta  Alcippe [morrisonia] davidi
- Gold-fronted Fulvetta  Alcippe variegaticeps
- Chinese Fulvetta  Alcippe striaticollis
- Spectacled Fulvetta  Alcippe ruficapilla
- Grey-hooded Fulvetta  Alcippe cinereiceps
- White-browed Fulvetta  Alcippe brunnea bieti
- Moupinia  Moupinia poecilotis
- Black-faced Laughingthrush  Turdoides affinis
- Chinese Hwamei  Garrulax canorus
- Buffy Laughingthrush  Ianthocincla berthemyi
- Chinese Babax  Ianthocincla lanceolatus
- White-browed Laughingthrush  Ianthocincla sannio
- Pere David’s Laughingthrush  Ianthocincla davidi
- Sukatshev’s Laughingthrush  Ianthocincla sukatschewi
- Barred Laughingthrush  Ianthocincla lunulata
- Giant Laughingthrush  Ianthocincla maxima
- Elliot’s Laughingthrush  Trohalopteron elliotii
- Red-winged Laughingthrush  Trohalopteron formosum
- Red-billed Leiothrix  Leiothrix lutea
- Emei Liocichla  Liocichla omeiensis
- Streaked Barwing  Actinodura souliei
- Red-tailed Minla  Minla ignotincta

**PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae**
- Golden-breasted Lioparus  Lioparus chrysotis
- Great Parrotbill  Conostoma oemodium
- Three-toed Parrotbill  Cholornis paradoxus paradoxus
- Cholornis paradoxus taipaiensis
- Brown Parrotbill  Cholornis unicolor
- Spectacled Parrotbill  Sinosothura conspicillatus
- Vinous-throated Parrotbill  Sinosothura webbianus
- Ashy-throated Parrotbill  Sinosothura alphonsianus
- Grey-hooded Parrotbill  Sinosothura zappeyi
- Golden Parrotbill  Suthora verreauxi verreauxi

**PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae**
- Stripe-throated Yuhina  Yuhina gularis
- White-collared Yuhina  Yuhina diademata
- Black-chinned Yuhina  Yuhina nigrimenta
- Chestnut-flanked White-eye  Zosterops erythrophleus
- Japanese White-eye  Zosterops japonicus simplex

**PASSERIFORMES: Regulidae**
- Goldcrest  Regulus regulus yunnanensis

**PASSERIFORMES: Troglodytidae**
- Eurasian Wren  Troglodytes troglodytes szetschuanus

**PASSERIFORMES: Sittidae**
- Chestnut-vented Nuthatch  Sitta nagaensis montium
- Przewalski’s Nuthatch  Sitta przewalskii
- Eurasian Nuthatch  Sitta europaea

**PASSERIFORMES: Tichodromidae**
- Wallcreeper  Tichodroma muraria
PASSERIFORMES: Certhiidae
Hodgson's Treecreeper  Certhia hodgsoni
Bar-tailed Treecreeper  Certhia himalayana
Sichuan Treecreeper  Certhia tianquanensis

PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae
Crested Myna  Acridotheres cristatellus
Red-billed Starling  Sturnus sericeus
White-cheeked Starling  Sturnus cinereus
Daurian Starling  Acropsar sturninus

PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae
Plain-backed Thrush  Zoothera mollissima
Long-tailed Thrush  Zoothera dixoni
Chinese Blackbird  Turdus mandarinus
Chestnut Thrush  Turdus rubrocana gouldi
Kessler's Thrush  Turdus kessleri
Chinese Thrush  Turdus mupinensis

PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae
Ferruginous Flycatcher  Muscicapa ferruginea
Dark-sided Flycatcher  Muscicapa sibirica
Verditer Flycatcher  Eumyias thalassina
Yellow-rumped Flycatcher  Ficedula zanthopygia
Slaty-backed Flycatcher  Ficedula hodgsonii
Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher  Ficedula strophiata
Snowy-browed Flycatcher  Ficedula hypertyra
Slaty-blue Flycatcher  Ficedula tricolor diversa
Fujian Niltava  Niltava davidi
Rufous-bellied Niltava  Niltava sundara denotata
Chinese Blue Flycatcher  Cyornis glaucicomans
Siberian Rubbythroat  Calliope calliope
Himalayan Rubythroat  Calliope pectoralis tschebaiewi
Firethroat  Calliope pectardens
Blackthroat  Calliope obscura
White-bellied Robin  Luscinia phoenicuroides
Rufous-headed Robin  Larvivora ruficeps
Indian Blue Robin  Larvivora brunnea
Himalayan Bluetail  Tarsiger rufilatus
Golden Bush Robin  Tarsiger chrysaeus
White-browed Bush Robin  Tarsiger indicus yunnanensis
White-browed Shortwing  Brachypteryx montana cruralis
Black Redstart  Phoenicurus ochruros rufiventris
Hodgson's Redstart  Phoenicurus hodgsoni
White-throated Redstart  Phoenicurus schisticeps
Daurian Redstart  Phoenicurus auroreus
Blue-fronted Redstart  Phoenicurus frontalis
White-capped Redstart  Phoenicurus leucocephalus
Plumbeous Redstart  Phoenicurus fuliginosus
White-tailed Robin  Myiomela leucura
Grey Bushchat  Saxicola ferrea
Eurasian Stonechat  Saxicola maurus przewalskii
Grandala  Grandala coelicolor
Slaty-backed Forktail  Enicurus schistaceus
White-crowned Forktail  Enicurus leschenaulti sinensis
Spotted Forktail  Enicurus maculatus
Blue Whistling Thrush  Myophonus caeruleus caeruleus
Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush  Monticola rufiventris
Blue Rock Thrush  Monticola solitarius pandoo

PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae
Slaty-blue Flycatcher  Ficedula tricolor diversa

PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae
Ferruginous Flycatcher  Muscicapa ferruginea
Dark-sided Flycatcher  Muscicapa sibirica
Verditer Flycatcher  Eumyias thalassina
Yellow-rumped Flycatcher  Ficedula zanthopygia
Slaty-backed Flycatcher  Ficedula hodgsonii
Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher  Ficedula strophiata
Snowy-browed Flycatcher  Ficedula hypertyra
Slaty-blue Flycatcher  Ficedula tricolor diversa
Fujian Niltava  Niltava davidi
Rufous-bellied Niltava  Niltava sundara denotata
Chinese Blue Flycatcher  Cyornis glaucicomans
Siberian Rubbythroat  Calliope calliope
Himalayan Rubythroat  Calliope pectoralis tschebaiewi
Firethroat  Calliope pectardens
Blackthroat  Calliope obscura
White-bellied Robin  Luscinia phoenicuroides
Rufous-headed Robin  Larvivora ruficeps
Indian Blue Robin  Larvivora brunnea
Himalayan Bluetail  Tarsiger rufilatus
Golden Bush Robin  Tarsiger chrysaeus
White-browed Bush Robin  Tarsiger indicus yunnanensis
White-browed Shortwing  Brachypteryx montana cruralis
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Hodgson's Redstart  Phoenicurus hodgsoni
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Daurian Redstart  Phoenicurus auroreus
Blue-fronted Redstart  Phoenicurus frontalis
White-capped Redstart  Phoenicurus leucocephalus
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Grey Bushchat  Saxicola ferrea
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Grandala  Grandala coelicolor
Slaty-backed Forktail  Enicurus schistaceus
White-crowned Forktail  Enicurus leschenaulti sinensis
Spotted Forktail  Enicurus maculatus
Blue Whistling Thrush  Myophonus caeruleus caeruleus
Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush  Monticola rufiventris
Blue Rock Thrush  Monticola solitarius pandoo
**PASSERIFORMES: Cinclidae**
- White-throated Dipper: Cinclus cinclus przewalskii
- Brown Dipper: Cinclus pallasii pallasii

**PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae**
- Mrs Gould's Sunbird: Aethopyga gouldiae dabryii

**PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae**
- Russet Sparrow: Passer rutilans
- Eurasian Tree Sparrow: Passer montanus
- Rock Sparrow: Petronia petronia brevirostris
- Black-winged Snowfinch: Montifringilla adamsi
- White-rumped Snowfinch: Montifringilla taczanowskii
- Rufous-necked Snowfinch: Montifringilla ruficollis

**PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae**
- White-rumped Munia: Lonchura striata

**PASSERIFORMES: Prunellidae**
- Alpine Accentor: Prunella collaris
- Rufous-breasted Accentor: Prunella strophiata
- Maroon-backed Accentor: Prunella immaculata
- Robin Accentor: Prunella rubeculoides

**PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae**
- Forest Wagtail: Dendronanthus indicus
- White Wagtail: Motacilla alba alboides
- Amur Wagtail: Motacilla alba leucopsis
- Tibetan Wagtail: Motacilla [citreola] calcarata
- Grey Wagtail: Motacilla cinerea
- Olive-backed Pipit: Anthus hodgsoni hodgsoni
- Rosy Pipit: Anthus roseatus

**PASSERIFORMES: Urocynchramidae**
- Przevalski's Pinktail: Urocynchramus pylzowi

**PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae**
- Plain Mountain Finch: Leucosticte nemoricola
- Brandt's Mountain Finch: Leucosticte brandti
- Blanford's Rosefinch: Carpodacus rubescens
- Dark-breasted Rosefinch: Carpodacus nipalensis
- Common Rosefinch: Carpodacus erythrinus roseatus
- Chinese Beautiful Rosefinch: Carpodacus davidianus
- Pink-rumped Rosefinch: Carpodacus eos
- Vinaceous Rosefinch: Carpodacus vinaceus
- Dark-rumped Rosefinch: Carpodacus edwardsii
- Three-banded Rosefinch: Carpodacus trifasciatus
- Long-tailed Rosefinch: Carpodacus sibiricus henrici
- Sharpe's Rosefinch: Carpodacus verreauxii
- Chinese White-browed Rosefinch: Carpodacus dubius
- Streaked Rosefinch: Carpodacus rubricollidues
- Red-fronted Rosefinch: Carpodacus puricexus
- Red Crossbill: Loxia curvirostra
- Oriental Greenfinch: Carduelis sinica
- Twite: Carduelis flavirostris miniakensis
- Tibetan Sisken: Serinus thibetanus
- Brown Bullfinch: Pyrrhula nipalensis
- Grey-headed Bullfinch: Pyrrhula erythaca
- Chinese Grosbeak: Eophona migratoria sowerbyi
- Collared Grosbeak: Mycerobas affinis
- White-winged Grosbeak: Mycerobas carpipes
- Spot-winged Grosbeak: Mycerobas melanozanthos
PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae

- Slaty Bunting: Emberiza siemsseni
- Godlewski’s Bunting: Emberiza godlewskii
- Yellow-throated Bunting: Emberiza elegans

MAMMALS

- Golden Snub-nosed Monkey: Rhinopithecus roxellana
- Swinhoe’s Striped Squirrel: Tamiops swinhoei
- Himalayan Marmot: Marmota himalayana
- Pere David’s Rock Squirrel: Sciurotamias davidianus
- Plateau Pika: Ochotona curzoniae
- Glover’s Pika: Ochotona gloveri
- Moupin Pika: Ochotona thibetana
- Woolly Hare: Lepus aurostolis
- Tibetan Fox: Vulpes ferrilata
- Red Fox: Vulpes vulpes
- Wolf: Canis lupus
- Hog Badger: Arctonyx collaris
- Siberian Roe Deer: Capreolus pygargus
- Red Deer: Cervus elaphus
- Tufted Deer: Elaphodus cephalophus
- Chinese Goral: Naemorhedus griseus

314 species including 10 heard only

Black-necked Crane, Tibetan plateau © James Eaton/Birdtour Asia