Tibetan Plateau and Xinjiang

12th June – 2nd July 2016

Leader: Mike Nelson

Participants: John Archer, Tim Fitzpatrick, Daniel Gruneberg, Steve Kornfeld, Peter Marsh, Todd Pepper, Price Webb, Derrick Wilby. Xinjiang only: Rob Tizard

The massive, high plateau of Tibet spreads from the foothills of the Himalayas across southern central China west to Pakistan and is bordered in the North West by the Taklamakan desert and the Tien Shan mountain range. The vast expanses are dotted with stunning vistas of snowcapped mountains and wide swaths of grasslands and barely hospitable, arid desert. Conifer draped valleys and high peaks afford us some fantastic birding and a good smattering of Chinese endemics and localized specialties awaited us. Snow melt water courses are also numerous and are dotted with dippers and Ibisbill among others. Numbers of mammals roam the grasslands eking out a meager subsistence among the hordes of domestic Yaks and goats. The Taklamakan Desert to the north west is also home to some range restricted species and the Tien Shan range holds many Eurasian specialties that make their eastern most extent here. This combination made for a wonderful tour filled with amazing birds and scenery – of which we enjoyed all the possible specialties.

Our first morning was spent in a lovely patch of coniferous forest north of Xining in Qinghai province and after an early start we arrived to blue skies and cool air filled with bird song. One of the first birds we picked up was
a Chinese Thrush in full song sat atop a tall conifer. After some breakfast we spent the morning hiking through
the stands of trees and into some open scrub habitat. Along the way we picked up Eurasian Buzzard, Grey-
headed Bullfinch, Willow Tit, Elliot’s and Pere David’s Laughingthrush, Yellow-streaked, Hume’s and Greenish
Warblers, Goldcrest, Chinese and Przewalski’s Nuthatch, Crested Tit-Warbler, Slaty-backed Flycatcher, Blue-
fronted and White-throated Redstart, Eurasian Siskin, Chinese White-browed Rosefinch and Rufous-breasted
Accentor. Of particular interest here is the range restricted Gansu Leaf Warbler and we managed some great
looks at several singing birds. We also secured some brilliant looks at a singing Siberian Rubythroat that we
could all see perched atop a tiny conifer through a window belting out its song. ‘Gansu Bluetail’, a vocally
distinct local race of Siberian, was located singing its quite different song from its congener.

Siberian Rubythroat and Gansu Leaf Warbler

The afternoon was spent in some arid hills above the city and we first came across a pair of Pied Wheatears
feeding their young in a hole on the bank next to the road. Though it was quite hot we managed to locate
Meadow and Godlewski’s Buntings, Hill Pigeon, Little Owl and Twite, though Pale Rosefinch could not be
located.

The next morning we began early heading west towards the vast Koko Nur, this huge lake (about 1600sq mi)
sits in an Endorheic basin and as such being part of an ancient salt pan is one of the world’s largest inland
saline lakes though it is now evaporating faster than it can be refilled. The area is also home to many water
birds and the morning spent here was very productive. Large amount of Common Terns of the tibetana
subspecies, with their greyish cast, flew back and forth during breakfast. Passing Bar-headed and Greylag
Goose honked from the air and many Great Crested Grebes dived below the surface looking for food. A huge
nesting colony of terns, ducks and Grebes; both Great Crested and Black-necked along with Common Coots
and Common Redshank created quite a cacophony. Out on the water we also scanned the ducks picking up
Ferruginous Duck, Ruddy Shelduck, Eurasian Teal, Northern Pintail, Red-crested and Common Pochard and
Northern Shoveler. The grassy surrounds provided us with Oriental Skylark and the huge Mongolian Lark plus
Hume’s Short-toed Lark and the diminutive Pere David’s Snowfinch. Several Black-necked Crane were in some
deeper water and reeds and in another part of the lake we found Brown-headed and Pallas’s Gulls circling.

Continuing farther away from the lake we found some rolling hills and some suitable habitat to bird for a while
here looking for one of the tours major targets, the monotypic family of Przewalski’s Pinktail. We were met by
our first of several Rufous-necked Snowfinches. Next came a lovely pair of Robin Accentors perched atop some
stunted brush. Many Alpine Leaf Warblers were singing around us and showed well. Some phishing also pulled
up a Smoky Warbler to join the activity around us. Though nice birds these were soon forgotten when the song
of a Pinktail rang out above us. Soon we were scoping a singing male perched atop a tall bush. Continuing the
rounds of its territory it kindly flew in our direction landing just up the slope from us and continued to sing
much to Todd’s relief as with shaky hands in the excitement was able to capture a shot of his last family, well
done Todd! With Urocynchramidae safely in the bag we continued birding through this brushy habitat pulling up
White-browed Tit, Kessler’s Thrush and Common Stonechat, Rosy Pipit and Brown Accentor. While standing in
this thick brush looking for birds a female Przewalski’s Pinktail came right towards us and plopped into a bush
nearby. Checking the bush we found her sat on her nest so quickly moved from the area and back down the
slope towards our van. After some Yak yogurt we continued along the road till we came across some more
arid, rocky ground and here spent the remainder of the afternoon picking up Asian Short-toed and Horned
Lark, Isabelline Wheatear, Twite and one of our main targets here with several flying Pallas’s Sandgrouse.
The next day began with a cold, dark departure with the sun slowly coming above the surrounding mountains showing us some seemingly inhospitable scrubland. While having breakfast this was proved incorrect when we found several Goitered Gazelle nibbling on the stunted bushes. Our destination was a pine clad valley but with no roads up we began to hike. Here at altitude we were feeling the lack of oxygen but birds began to show which helped take our minds off of the lack of breathable air. While sifting through the endless pairs of Horned Larks the huge form of a black, grey and white Tibetan Grey Shrike flew down one of the river gullies but was sadly only seen by a few of us and though we scoured the area we couldn’t locate it again. Near a small farm we found a nice singing Pine Bunting and flushed up some more Asian Short-toed Larks before chasing a pair of partridges around that quickly gave us the slop before they could be IDed. Making our way through a narrow gorge we picked up Black Redstart, Brown Accentor and Glover’s Pika before emerging out onto a small grassy table land in between some forested slopes. As soon as we arrived we made out a female Przewalski’s Redstart, our main target, but the male eluded us for some time but this was occupied watching Chinese White-browed Rosefinch, White-winged Grosbeak, Himalayan Marmot and bottanensis Eurasian Magpies. Eventually following the distant song up a narrow valley we managed to scope a male redstart which eventually moved down the valley towards us and spent some time moving through the surrounding conifers giving us some fantastic looks. Also of note here were a nice pair of Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinches and a distant pair of Wolves on the distant slope above the valley. Scoped nicely this was a nice addition to the morning birds.

Alpine Leaf Warbler and Przewalski’s Pinktail

The afternoon was spent back in some arid scrub searching for our next major target and after some fruitless searching we managed to stumble upon a pair of juvenile Blanford’s Snowfinches and watching and waiting we eventually saw one of the adults bringing food to them. Though not the main target it was nice to see these birds but we moved on scouring the area and although Henderson’s Ground Jay has “ground” in the title it was Todd who spotted on perched atop a fence post. Once we’d all had good looks it reverted to type and quickly dropped to the ground and ran off through the brush stopping to dig something out of the hard packed sand. We watched it for a while before it took off on white wings and cruised across the brush to perch up on the walls of an old abandoned building allowing some lovely scope views. We were able to get quite close in the end and watch as it moved around the walls constantly scanning for prey.

Another forested valley with rocky slopes was our destination this morning with Przewalski’s Partridge first on the menu of our targets. Heard singing up the slope from us we made our way through the fields or rubble and grassy stalks up to the huge face eventually finding them in the scope and getting some great looks. Another began to sing on the slope above us but with only its head and shoulders poking above the ridge it didn’t make for the best of looks. We continued to bird the area making our way up through a gorge to the grassy slopes above picking up Wallcreeper, White-throated Redstart, Himalayan Griffon and Lammergeier floating low along the ridge line, Kessler’s Thrush, Hill Pigeon, Pine Bunting and several more Przewalski’s Partridges, Red-billed Chough, Common Cuckoo and Common Swift were also noted here.

The afternoon was spent in some more arid areas and as we arrived we were greeted by a surprise Great Rosefinch showing well next to the road. After some time hiking through some ankle high bushes we located a pair of Mongolian Finches and just as we were taking these in a pair of Pallas’s Sandgrouse flushed to our left showing well in flight with their black bellies.
We had one more shot for Daurian Partridges this morning and after strolling through some grassy fields we flushed up a couple of birds which we all managed to get onto. Tracking them down again farther along we managed to flush up a single but it flew over a low ridge and out of sight but having seen them we moved on picking up more Przewalski’s Partridge again and Black Redstarts but little else new but as we needed to continue on we headed back to the van and drove back east dropping in altitude till we arrived at our next destination, Gonghe. The surrounding scrubby brush around here in the relative humid lowlands gave us Japanese Tit, Eurasian Magpie, Eurasian Hoopoe and eventually divulged the margelanicus Lesser Whitethroat we’d been searching for and with a long day ahead of us we headed for an early evening.

Henderson’s Ground Jay and Przewalski’s Redstart

The next day we arrived cold and rainy at one of the high mountain passes, Er La, etched in birding folklore, situated at 4,500m. Snow covered the area in a white blanket and the mountains around us were draped in low cloud. Despite this many Henri’s Snowfinches were hanging around giving us some great looks but there was little else moving in the cold wind. We bundled up and headed up into the mountains after some breakfast and began the climb up but once into the fog of the clouds it was hard to make out any birds and once at the top of the ridge we could barely see thirty feet in front of us which was discouraging. After plodding around here for several hours with no luck apart from the tracks of a Tibetan Snowcock we began to head back down. The cloud cover was lifting lower down and we picked up Roborovski’s Rosefinch and Brandt’s Mountain Finch and just when it seemed the summit might clear a fresh set of clouds rolled in and it began to rain, which we thought was uncalled for. Needless to say we loaded up in the warmth of the van and moved on. The rest of the day was spent driving through some lovely scenery with more snowcapped peaks, wide, grass covered valleys and slopes and we picked up Roborovski’s Rosefinch and Brandt’s Mountain Finch plus several canids with Wolf, Red Fox and Tibetan Fox.

We had another long day of travel across the wide open spaces of the plateau today picking up some more great species including Tibetan Lark, a dark morph White-throated Dipper, Rock Sparrow, Goosander with a gaggle of chicks, Salim Ali’s Swift, several Hoopoe, Black Redstart, Golden Eagle and White-rumped Snowfinch. Following a lovely water course we picked up White-capped Redstart and Plumbeous Redstart, White and Tibetan Wagtail and a much sought Ibisbill meandering through the rocks at the river’s edge as we passed through Yushu, and heading south through deep gorges close to the birth of the mighty Mekong.

Today was spent is a lovely valley leading up to yet another high pass. We began with our main target during breakfast with a singing Kozlov’s Bunting surrounded by stunning, rocky scenery. Above us we could hear Red-fronted Rosefinches singing along with Olive-backed Pipit so we began to hike up the rocky slope before us. We eventually tracked down the Rosefinch on the stony face and drummed up a few Alpine Accentors in the process. For a few intrepid souls we continued up past the 4,800m mark but the lack of oxygen and birds made us pack it in and head down again. Meeting the rest of the group along the road we picked up Snow Pigeons and Yellow-billed Chough before we birded our way down the road running into a small flock which included White-throated Redstart and White-browed Tit and several Pink-rumped Rosefinches. Black Redstarts and Common Cuckoos were on the wires and in the scrub below us several Elliot’s Laughingthrushes moved and sang through the brush. Making our way down we eventually picked up the song of a Chinese Rubythroat (a recent paper showed it to be sufficiently distinct from Himalayan) and picked out its crimson patch amongst the greenery. We watched for a while before a White-browed Tit-Warbler caught our attention. Hodgson’s Redstart, Alpine Leaf, Buff-barred and Smoky Warblers were also found on the lower slopes. As we were
birding along there on the road down the valley we could hear a loud pair of Szechenyi’s Monal-Partridge high atop a grassy slope to our right. In the pine and rocky outcrops way above us we could hear them call back and forth. There was nothing for it but to climb up to get to them. Puffing a little bit we arrived just below the slope where they were calling. Stunted pines and brush surrounded the area with some thick grass but we were not able to track them down without spooking them. We decided to move across to an area of brush overlooking the grass and risk being spotted but it worked in our favour as few minutes later they came moving across the grass but once we were spotted one took flight landing behind us the other moving up into the rocks. This worked out well as they began calling to each other to join up again and we got some great looks as the one behind us made its way to join its mate. Thankfully our bins filled with superb looks at the birds we made our way back down the slope to the van. Our drive out gave us a nice surprise when a pair of Tibetan Partridges ran across the road in front of us. With a quick braking job we managed to all squeeze up and get a look at them as they made their way up the ridge. Since we’d not climbed out of the bus they started feeding around some brush and up the rocky slope near the bus and we all managed some great looks.

Ibisbill and Przewalski’s Partridge

The next day our destination was yet another lovely conifer draped valley and soon as we arrived for breakfast the place was humming with bird song. While we were eating the local Daurian Jackdaws were steaming in looking for scraps and we could hear White Eared Pheasants singing on a distant slope. Careful scanning led us to the bird on a small grassy outcrop and we got some nice scope views. We needn’t have panicked though as during the course of the day we saw 38 individuals! Some right next to the bus. Birding here was excellent and even the mammals performed with a huge crèche of Blue Sheep attended by three adults. Birding in the forest gave us Sichuan Leaf Warbler, Maroon-backed Accentor, a lovely perched Black Woodpecker, great views of Crested Tit-Warbler, a circling pair of Blood Pheasant, Grey-crested, Rufous-vented, Sichuan and Coal Tits, Himalayan Bluetail and some very vocal Giant Laughingthrushes. In the brushy habitat we tracked down our main target in the rain with a pair of Kozlov’s Babax eventually sitting up for us to scope, this was shortly followed by a nice pair of Black-streaked Scimitar Babblers and brightly colored Common Rosefinches.

Following this we continued on two days of driving across the vast high plateau to the west interspersed with loads of Kiang, Wolf, Plateau Pika, Tibetan Gazelle and Antelope plus Tibetan Fox, Wooly Hare and Himalayan Marmots. Birds were common along the way as well and a nice stop in some marshes gave us some nice looks at Black-necked Crane. Upland Buzzard, Black-eared Kite and Himalayan Griffon added to the raptors and we made a special stop along the way for one of our main targets. A wide rocky plateau greeted us when we arrived and we all formed a line and began to move slowly through the soft sand and crusted earth. For some time we continued through this habitat only spooking up a Lesser Sandplover from a nearby pond. Circling around the pond we continued over some dunes and near the end of the line it was John who spotted our target moving slowly along a shallow ridge line but it was enough to break the horizon and give away its positon. Once spotted it ducked down onto the sand and froze which enabled us to get it in the scope. There in the scope matching the sandy surroundings was a stunning Tibetan Sandgrouse. All our scopes were trained on it and we all savored the bird, especially Daniel as it was his last sandgrouse, well done! We continued to Golmud where we caught and overnight train south to Lhasa. We awoke to some stunning scenery on the high plateau, above 5,000m as the sun broke over some of the surrounding snow capped peaks casting an orange glow over the huge green steppe before us. Dotted with pastures we saw a few Tibetan Gazelle amongst the many herds of domesticated yaks and pretty Tibetan villages. We arrived in Lhasa in the late morning and
after some traditional dumplings for lunch we took a tour round the magnificent Potala Palace; once the seat of the Tibetan government and the winter residence of the Dalai Lamas since the 7th century, is Lhasa’s cardinal landmark, the white towering, fortress-like walls is an architectural wonder even by modern standards, rising 13 storeys. As well as soaking it the sheet scale of the building, some light birding yielded several Tibetan Blackbirds, and the buzzing streets and markets were all enjoyed during the afternoon.

Maroon-backed Accentor and Sezchenyi’s Monal-Partridge

Crested Tit-Warbler and Blood Pheasant

The next day we birded along another valley where the road winds its way up to a monastery that gave us the chance to do some fantastic birding. Breakfast was accented by several Prince Henri’s Laughingthrushes, Streaked Rosefinch, Tibetan Blackbird, Japanese Tits, Hoopoe carrying food to their nests and Pink-rumped Rosefinches. Once at the top we birded round the monastery finding a nice group of Giant Babax and across a huge gulley from the monastery we found several Tibetan Eared Pheasants feeding. As we were making our way back towards the monastery we heard a Tibetan Snowcock singing and scanning the ridge above us found a pair close together near some prayer flags. Wanting to get some better looks we walked above the village and Tim, feeling particularly energetic, hiked up the slope to get a better look. They remained quite close on the edge and as Tim drew near he managed to secure some very nice views before the four of them sprang from the ridge and glided down to the monastery coming to rest on a grassy knoll near a bright red chorten. Not believing our luck we walked down towards them and they remained in place quietly foraging. We all snuck up to get some fantastic views and pictures before a local gentleman passed us walking directly towards them. Fearing they would flush I motioned for him to stop but he put up a hand reassuringly and produced a bag full
of seed that he threw out for them. Failing the bread test, but we were still getting some amazing views! A close Tibetan Partridge got in on the act and while we were watching the pair of snowcocks feeding one of the other pair came up from where they had landed lower down and joined the proceedings. Having usually only gotten distant views or in our case none at all so far it was amazing to have such a confiding trio feeding around us where we could study every detail.

The road down was no less productive with super close views of Tibetan Eared Pheasant along with a nesting pair of Wallcreepers and Eurasian Eagle Owl with two chicks and what looked like the legs of a rather unlucky Tibetan Eared Pheasant lying close by. We also got onto a pair of White-bellied Robins and their fully grown chick and a nice close Pink-rumped Rosefinch.

Our last two days in Tibet was spent in some coniferous forests way out in the easternmost part of the province where rich, conifer clad valleys rise up from the Brahmaputra, we found Rufous-fronted Bushtit, White-collared Blackbird, Long-tailed Minivet, Claudia’s Leaf Warbler, Daurian Redstart and Chestnut-vented Nuthatch. Though our main target was heard calling a few times it has thus far eluded us when we found a nice perched female Lord Derby’s Parakeet atop a tall conifer – eastern Tibet being the stronghold of this enigmatic, cone-eating parrot. It kindly remained in place while we got the scope on it and even while we moved to a better position. Some birding in the afternoon enabled us to find Black-headed Greenfinch and a nice male Lord Derby’s Parakeet as well as Indian Blue Robin. Checking another area of pine forest we were making our way
along a trail when a familiar but unexpected song reached our ears. Making our way into the pines we crouched below the line of trees and found the bright red patch of a Firethroat singing. We could also hear another behind us and a few waited back on the trail as we maneuvered for some better views one hopped across the trail in front of them. Very surprised but grateful for such a mega that hasn’t been found here before.

Though the military wouldn’t allow us to Lulang this year, some notables from our last day birding closer to town were a nice pair of Chinese Fulvettas and while walking through some pine forest we spooked a Grey Nightjar of her nest exposing two brown flecked white eggs. We quickly moved off and continued birding for a while returning after half an hour and from some distance managed to relocate the nest this time with the female perched atop her eggs blending superbly into the forest floor. With it beginning to rain more heavily we headed back for our farewell dinner for John and Todd who were not joining us for the extension.

Our Xinjiang extension was split into three areas. The edge of the massive Taklamakan Desert, the reedbeds of Bosten Lake and the foothills of the Tien Shan mountain range. Fortune smiled on us the first day as we were driving into the desert when after about two hours a pair of Biddulph’s Ground Jays flashed before the bus and out into the surrounding scrub. We quickly unloaded from the bus and managed to follow them for a while getting some nice looks. On the walk back to the bus we also picked up Crested Lark, Desert Finches, Desert Whitethroat, *aremarius* Isabelline (Daurian) Shrike, and Saxual Sparrow. Farther along we spotted several birds on the phone wires which turned about to be a family of five more Biddulph’s Ground Jays. We again pilled out of the bus for some more great looks. In some riverside brush we settled in for some breakfast before heading out to find our next suite of birds. We started off well with White-winged Woodpecker close by and Sykes’s Warblers moving quietly in the surrounding scrubbly trees as well as more Desert Whitethroats and a nice pair of Azure Tits before we located a very mobile pair of Tarim Babblers – a recent split from Beijing Babbler, then Chinese Bush-dweller, and a near-Xinjiang endemic now. Eventually we all managed to get some looks at them as they foraged through the undergrowth.

The next day was spent along the reed beds at Bosten Hu. The tall reeds were home to Great Reed, Eurasian Reed, Paddyfield and Savi’s Warblers. Reed Buntings flew back and forth from patch to patch and Little Bittern popped out now and then. Common Tern, Caspian Gull and Great Cormorant were all seen in flight. We also tracked down several small groups of Bearded Reedlings and a particularly showy Bluethroat as well as Little Ringed Plover, Black-winged Stilt, Common Moorhen, White-winged Black and Whiskered Terns and Citrine Wagtail. From here we headed back to the airport for an afternoon flight across the Tien Shan to Urumqi for the night.

The following morning we birded along some open planes where there was a particularly European feel with Eurasian Skylarks singing, a European Roller on the wire next to a Tawny Pipit but we were soon snapped back to Asian reality when we found our main target in a stunning male Red-headed Bunting singing in the morning light. Here was also where we picked up the more rufous colored *phoeicuroides* subspecies of Isabelline (Turkestan) Shrike, quite different from its sandy colored neighbor to the south of the Tien Shan range. Firefronted Serin at the next village again reminded us that we were in Asian since we’d just been looking at Eurasian Jackdaw, Common Whitethroat, Mistle Thrush, Common Blackbird and European Goldfinches. A nice park filled with conifers was our next destination and several hours birding here gave us Blue-capped Redstart,
more Fire-fronted Serin, Red Crossbill, European Nuthatch and Eurasian Treecreeper and Black-throated Accentor. We also managed to track down the tapping of a woodpecker and as we followed in we paused on the other side of a fence to listen out. We could hear it calling and Tim and Mike went over the fence to investigate. As we were standing next to a pine a flash of movement caught our eyes as a lovely male Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker landed right in front of us. Mike had to duck so as not to block the others behind him on the other side of the fence but it began to tap away looking for grubs as if we weren’t there eventually pulling out a tasty morsal and continuing to scour around before flying off.

Along the road we stopped for some lunch and found a nice adult and juvenile Eurasian Hobby and another close Mistle Thrush. Common Whitethroats sang in the bushes close by and venturing up a narrow valley we eventually caught up with a female and several fledged chicks of Eversmann’s Redstarts. It took us a while longer though to eventually track down a male that showed reluctantly and only briefly on top of a small bushy gulley after climbing up after it. From here it was a slow drive back to our hotel and our farewell dinner.

For information regarding our tours to China please click here. Alternatively please contact us via e-mail or phone +44 1332 516254 regarding organising a custom tour to China.

**Bird-of-the-tour Qinghai and Tibet:**

1. Tibetan Snowcock
2. Tibetan Sandgrouse
3. Przewalski’s Pinktail
4. Przewalski’s Redstart
5. Henderson’s Ground Jay

**Bird-of-the-tour Xinjiang extension:**

1. Biddulph’s Ground Jay
2. Red-headed Bunting
3. Tarim Babbler
4. Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker
5. Bearded Reedling

**More photos from the tour:**

![Grey Nightjar and Alpine Accentor](image)
Pere David’s Snowfinch and White-browed Tit

White Eared Pheasant and Tibetan Sandgrouse

Streaked Rosefinch and Great Rosefinch
Wallcreepers and White-throated Redstart

Giant Babax and Pine Bunting

Severtzov’s Tit-Warbler and ‘Gansu Bluetail’
Great Reed Warbler and Paddyfield Warbler

Bearded Reedling and European Roller

Biddulph’s Ground Jay and Bluethroat
# Systematic List

**ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae**

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<th>Scientific Name</th>
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<td>Greylag Goose</td>
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<td>Bar-headed Goose</td>
<td><em>Anser indicus</em></td>
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<td>Ruddy Shelduck</td>
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<td>Common Shelduck</td>
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<td>Ferruginous Pochard</td>
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<td>Common Merganser</td>
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**GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae**

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<td>Tibetan Snowcock</td>
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<td>Przevalski’s Partridge</td>
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<td>Blood Pheasant</td>
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<td>White Eared Pheasant</td>
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<td>Tibetan Eared Pheasant</td>
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<td>Common Pheasant</td>
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**PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae**

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<th>Species</th>
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<td>Great Crested Grebe</td>
<td><em>Podiceps cristatus</em></td>
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Black-necked Grebe  
*Podiceps nigricollis*

**PELECANIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae**

- Great Cormorant  
*Phalacrocorax carbo*

**CICONIIFORMES: Ardeidae**

- Grey Heron  
*Ardea cinerea*
- Eastern Great Egret  
*Casmerodius [albus] modestus*
- Chinese Pond Heron  
*Ardeola bacchus*
- Eastern Cattle Egret  
*Bubulcus coromandus*
- Little Egret  
*Egretta garzetta*
- Black-crowned Night Heron  
*Nycticorax nycticorax*

**ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae**

- Black-eared Kite  
*Milvus milgrans lineatus*
- Lammergeier  
*Gypaetus barbatus*
- Himalayan Griffon  
*Gyps himalayensis*
- Shikra  
*Accipiter badius*
- Common Buzzard  
*Buteo buteo vulpinus*
- Himalayan Buzzard  
*Buteo burmanicus*
- Upland Buzzard  
*Buteo hemilasius*
- Golden Eagle  
*Aquila chrysaetos*

**FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae**

- Eurasian Kestrel  
*Falco tinnunculus*
- Eurasian Hobby  
*Falco subbuteo*
- Saker Falcon  
*Falco cherrug*

**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**

- Common Redshank  
*Tringa totanus*
- Common Greenshank  
*Tringa nebularia*
- Wood Sandpiper  
*Tringa glareola*
- Common Sandpiper  
*Actitis hypoleucos*

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae**

- Pallas's Gull  
*Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus*
- Brown-headed Gull  
*Larus brunnicephalus*
- Caspian Gull  
*Larus cachinnans*
- Black-headed Gull  
*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*
- Common Tern  
*Sterna hirundo tibetana*
- White-winged Tern  
*Chlidonias leucopterus*
- Whiskered Tern  
*Chlidonias hybridus*

**PTEROCLIDIFORMES: Pteroclididae**

- Tibetan Sandgrouse  
*Syrrhaptes tibetanus*
- Pallas's Sandgrouse  
*Syrrhaptes paradoxus*
COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae
Hill Pigeon Columba rupestris
Stock Dove Columba oenas
Snow Pigeon Columba leuconota
Eurasian Collared Dove Streptopelia decaocto
Oriental Turtle Dove Streptopelia orientalis orientalis
Streptopelia orientalis meena

PSITTACIFORMES: Psittacidae
Lord Derby’s Parakeet Psittacula derbiana

CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae
Common Cuckoo Cuculus canorus

STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae
Little Owl Athene noctua inoatia
Eurasian Eagle Owl Bubo bubo

APODIFORMES: Apodidae
Common Swift Apus apus pekinensis
Pacific Swift Apus pacificus pacificus
Salim Ali’s Swift Apus salimali

CORACIIFORMES: Upupidae
Hoopoe Upupa epops

PICIFORMES: Picidae
Great Spotted Woodpecker Dendrocopos major stresemanni
White-backed Woodpecker Dendrocopos leucotos
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
Asian Short-toed Lark Calandrella cheleensis
Crested Lark Galerida cristata
Oriental Skylark Alauda gulgula
Eurasian Skylark Alauda arvensis
Horned Lark Eremophila alpestris khamensis

PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae
Pale Martin Riparia diluta
Eurasian Crag Martin Ptyonoprogne rupestris
Barn Swallow Hirundo rustica
Daurian Swallow Cecropis daurica
Asian House Martin Delichon dasypus
Common House Martin Delichon urbicum

PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae
Long-tailed Minivet Pericrocotus ethologus

PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae
Isabelline Shrike Lanius isabellinus tsaidamenis
Grey-backed Shrike Lanius tephronotus
Tibetan Grey Shrike Lanius [sphenocercus] giganteus

PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae
Azure-winged Magpie Cyanopica cyanus kansuensis
Eurasian Magpie  
Pica pica bottanensis  
Pica pica sericea

Henderson's Ground Jay  
Podoces hendersoni  

Biddulph’s Ground Jay  
Podoces biddulphi

Spotted Nutcracker  
Nucifraga caryocatactes macella

Red-billed Chough  
Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax himalayanus

Yellow-billed Chough  
Actinodura cyanuroptera

Daurian Jackdaw  
Corvus dauricus insolens

Western Jackdaw  
Coloeus monedula

Carrion Crow  
Corvus [corone] orientalis

Large-billed Crow  
Corvus japonensis tibetosinensis

Common Raven  
Corvus corax tibetanus

**PASSERIFORMES: Paridae**

Willow Tit  
Poecile montanus affinis

Sichuan Tit  
Poecile [songaricus] weigoldei

White-browed Tit  
Poecile superciliosa

Rufous-vented Tit  
Periparus rubidiventris

Azure Tit  
Cyanistes cyanus

Coal Tit  
Periparus ater aemodius

Periparus ater rufipectus

Grey-crested Tit  
Lophophanes dichrous

Great Tit  
Parus major kapustini

Japanese Tit  
Parus minor minor

Parus minor tibetanus

Green-backed Tit  
Parus monticolus

Ground Tit  
Pseudopodoces humilis

**PASSERIFORMES: Regulidae**

Goldcrest  
Regulus regulus yunnanensis

**PASSERIFORMES: Cincldiae**

White-throated Dipper  
Cinclus cincclus przewalskii

Brown Dipper  
Cinclus pallasii

**PASSERIFORMES: Troglodytidae**

Winter Wren  
Troglodytes troglodytes szetschuanus

**PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae**

Dark-sided Flycatcher  
Muscicapa sibirica rothschildi

Slaty-backed Flycatcher  
Ficedula Hodgsonii

Bluethroat  
Luscinia svecica

Siberian Rubythroat  
Calliope calliope

Chinese Rubythroat  
Calliope pectoralis tschebaiewi

Firethroat  
Calliope pectardens

Indian Blue Robin  
Larvivora brunnea

Siberian Bluetail  
Tarsiger cyanurus albocoeruleus

Himalayan Bluetail  
Tarsiger rufilatus rufilatus

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

White-capped Redstart  
Phoenicurus leucocephalus

Plumbeous Redstart  
Phoenicurus fuliginosus

White-bellied Redstart  
Hodgsonius phaenicuroides

Common Stonechat  
Saxicola maura przewalskii

Isabelline Wheatear  
Oenanthe isabellina

Pied Wheatear  
Oenanthe pleschanka

Desert Wheatear  
Oenanthe deserti

Northern Wheatear  
Oenanthe oenanthe
**PASSERIFORMES: Leiothrichidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Giant Babax</td>
<td>Babax waddelli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kozlov's Babax</td>
<td>Babax koslowi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pere David's Laughingthrush</td>
<td>Pterorhinus davidii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giant Laughingthrush</td>
<td>Ianthocincla maximus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elliot's Laughingthrush</td>
<td>Garrulax elliottii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince Henri's Laughingthrush</td>
<td>Garrulax henrici</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-streaked Scimitar Babbler</td>
<td>Pomatorhinus gravivox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Fulvetta</td>
<td>Fulvetta striaticolis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>'Margelanic' Lesser Whitethroat</td>
<td>Sylvia minula margelanica</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PASSERIFORMES: Acrocephalidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Great Reed Warbler</td>
<td>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eurasian Reed Warbler</td>
<td>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paddyfield Warbler</td>
<td>Acrocephalus agricola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sykes's Warbler</td>
<td>Iduna rama</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PASSERIFORMES: Locustellidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Savi's Warbler</td>
<td>Locustella luscinioiides</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PASSERIFORMES: Phylloscopidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smoky Warbler</td>
<td>Phylloscopus fulgiventer weigoldi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpine Leaf Warbler</td>
<td>Phylloscopus occisinensis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-streaked Warbler</td>
<td>Phylloscopus armandii armandii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buff-barred Warbler</td>
<td>Phylloscopus pulcher pulcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gansu Leaf Warbler</td>
<td>Phylloscopus kansuensis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sichuan Leaf Warbler</td>
<td>Phylloscopus [chloronotus] forresti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Leaf Warbler</td>
<td>Phylloscopus yunnanensis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hume's Leaf Warbler</td>
<td>Phylloscopus humei mandellii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenish Warbler</td>
<td>Phylloscopus humei humei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large-billed Leaf Warbler</td>
<td>Phylloscopus trochiloides viridanus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claudia's Leaf Warbler</td>
<td>Phylloscopus claudiae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blyth's Leaf Warbler</td>
<td>Phylloscopus reguloides</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PASSERIFORMES: Aegithalidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rusty-fronted Bushtit</td>
<td>Aegithalos iouschistos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severtzov's Tit Warbler</td>
<td>Leptopoecile sophiae obscura</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crested Tit Warbler</td>
<td>Leptopoecile elegans</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**PASSERIFORMES: Sittidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eurasian Nuthatch</td>
<td>Sitta europaea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chestnut-vented Nuthatch</td>
<td>Sitta nagaensis montium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-tailed Nuthatch</td>
<td>Sitta himalayensis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Nuthatch</td>
<td>Sitta villosa bangsi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Przevalski's Nuthatch</td>
<td>Sitta przewalskii</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PASSERIFORMES: Tichodromidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wallcreeper</td>
<td>Tichodroma muraria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PASSERIFORMES: Certhiidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eurasian Treecreeper</td>
<td>Certhia familiaris tianschanica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hodgson's Treecreeper</td>
<td>Certhia hodgsoni</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Gould's Sunbird</td>
<td>Aethopyga gouldiae dabryii</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White-cheeked Starling</td>
<td>Spodiopsar cineraceus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae

White-collared Blackbird          *Turdus albocinctus*
Tibetan Blackbird                *Turdus mandarinus maximus*
Chestnut Thrush                  *Turdus rubrocanus gouldi*
Kessler’s Thrush                 *Turdus kessleri*
Chinese Thrush                   *Turdus mupinensis*
Common Blackbird                 *Turdus merula*
Mistle Thrush                    *Turdus viscivorus*

PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae

Russet Sparrow                   *Passer rutilans*
Eurasian Tree Sparrow            *Passer montanus*
House Sparrow                    *Passer domesticus*
Saxaul Sparrow                   *Passer ammodendri*
Rock Sparrow                     *Petronia petronia brevirostris*
Henri’s Snowfinch                *Montifringilla henrici*
Black-winged Snowfinch           *Montifringilla adamsi*
White-rumped Snowfinch           *Onychostruthus taczanowskii*
Père David’s Snowfinch            *Pyrgilauda davidiana*
Rufous-necked Snowfinch          *Pyrgilauda ruficollis*
Blanford’s Snowfinch             *Montifringilla blanfordi*

PASSERIFORMES: Prunellidae

Alpine Accentor                  *Prunella collaris*
Robin Accentor                   *Prunella rubeculoides*
Rufous-breasted Accentor         *Prunella strophiata*
Brown Accentor                   *Prunella fulvescens*
Black-throated Accentor          *Prunella atrogularis*
Maroon-backed Accentor           *Prunella immaculata*

PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae

Himalayan Wagtail                *Motacilla alba alboides*
Amur Wagtail                     *Motacilla alba leucopsis*
Masked Wagtail                   *Motacilla alba personata*
Citrine Wagtail                  *Motacilla citreola*
Tibetan Wagtail                  *Motacilla [citreola] calcara*
Grey Wagtail                     *Motacilla cinerea*
Tawny Pipit                      *Anthus campestris*
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*
Desert Finch                     *Rhodospiza obsoleta*
Mongolian Finch                  *Bucanetes mongolicus*
Common Rosefinch                 *Carpodacus erythrinus roseatus*
Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch    *Carpodacus pulcherrimus*
Pink-rumped Rosefinch            *Carpodacus eos*
Chinese White-browed Rosefinch   *Carpodacus dubius*
Streaked Rosefinch               *Carpodacus rubicilloides*
Spotted Great Rosefinch          *Carpodacus severtzovi*
Red-fronted Rosefinch            *Carpodacus puniceus*
Roborovski’s Rosefinch           *Carpodacus roborowskii*
Red Crossbill                    *Loxia curvirostra*
Grey-capped Greenfinch           *Chloris sinica*
Black-headed Greenfinch          *Chloris ambigua tayloiri*
Twite                            *Carduelis flavirostris miniakensis*
Eurasian Siskin                  *Spinus spinus*
Grey-headed Bullfinch            *Pyrrhula erythaca*
White-winged Grosbeak            *Mycerobas carnipes*
### PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kozlov's Bunting</td>
<td>Emberiza koslowi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine Bunting</td>
<td>Emberiza leucocephalos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-headed Bunting</td>
<td>Emberiza bruniceps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Godlewski's Bunting</td>
<td>Emberiza godlewskii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meadow Bunting</td>
<td>Emberiza cioides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Reed Bunting</td>
<td>Emberiza schoeniclus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### MAMMALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pere David's Rock Squirrel</td>
<td>Sciurotamias davidianus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Himalayan Marmot</td>
<td>Marmota himalayana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plateau Pika</td>
<td>Ochotona curzoniae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glover's Pika</td>
<td>Ochotona gloveri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large-eared Pika</td>
<td>Ochotona macrotis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woolly Hare</td>
<td>Lepus oiostolus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tibetan Fox</td>
<td>Vulpes ferrilata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Fox</td>
<td>Vulpes vulpes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolf</td>
<td>Canis lupes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mountain Weasel</td>
<td>Mustela altaica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiang</td>
<td>Equus hemionus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Siberian Roe Deer</td>
<td>Capreolus pygargus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tibetan Gazelle</td>
<td>Procapra picticaudata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goitered Gazelle</td>
<td>Gazella subgutturosa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Yak</td>
<td>Bos grunnien</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tibetan Antelope</td>
<td>Pantholops hadgsonii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Sheep</td>
<td>Pseudois nayaur</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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