Sichuan 1 May – 24 May 2010, including Crested Ibis extension - by Henk Hendriks

INTRODUCTION
The enthusiastic stories of the Collaerts brothers and especially Remco Hofland who visited Sichuan in 2006, made me eager to visit this part of China as soon as possible. I already intended to visit the region in 2008 but it did not seem wise to travel to China in the year it organised the Olympic Games. Social unrest in the Tibetan area and an earthquake that year made me definitely decide to postpone my visit. So in May this year I finally made the trip. During the first 2 weeks I was accompanied by my brother Frans, Jan Hein van Steenis and Jos Aarts and the third week I continued with Frans only.

We followed the more or less standard route birders take when visiting Sichuan, but we added Walang N.R. and Bifeng Xia to our itinerary. We also planned to visit Labahe N.R. but unfortunately this reserve was completely closed to visitors. Very frustrating. Generally our itinerary and the timing of our visit worked out fine. According to local people, spring was up to 2 weeks later than normal and this could be the reason we missed some late arrivals like Rufous-headed Robin.

During the trip we decided to try and observe Crested Ibis at Yangxian in Shaanxi. And we did!

VISA
You need a visa for China.
I obtained it through my local travel agency and this was valid for 30 days.

GETTING THERE – FLIGHT
We flew KLM direct from Amsterdam to Chengdu.
A return ticket cost €740,- including all taxes.

MONEY
The currency used in China is the Yuan.
At the beginning of our stay the exchange rate was: €1,- = 0,90 RMB
At the end of our stay the exchange rate was: €1,- = 0,83 RMB

GETTING AROUND – CAR – ACCOMMODATION – FOOD & DRINKS
For the first 2 weeks we hired a big van with driver and interpreter for which we paid €130 a day. Petrol, accommodation and food for driver and interpreter was included in this price.
For the last week we hired a smaller car for which we paid €100 a day.
Our driver did not mind getting up very early in the morning and going on all day.

We organised our trip by:
Contact person: Samuel Yue
Company name: Chengdu Overseas Tourist Corporation
Address: No. 246 Wuhouci Dajie, Chengdu, China
Tel: 0086-28-85109296
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Mobile: 138080054

Accommodation was generally okay and varied from sufficient to good. We always had a double room with a private bathroom. Prices varied between 70 RMB to 300 RMB (Wanglang NR).
Food & drinks were also very cheap.
On average we spent 15 to 16€ a day for accommodation, food and drinks.
As we did not like the breakfasts provided by the hotels we mostly bought cakes, cookies and bananas which we took with us and had breakfast out in the field. The breakfasts at the hotels were also mostly served too late for birders. We also bought a thermos (every hotel provides hot water), tea and Nescafe and so we always had tea/coffee available to us. Lunch was sometimes had at restaurants along the road, at our hotel or out in the field with cakes, marmalade and bananas. I’d also brought a jar of peanutbutter with me from home, which made some people jealous.

**HEALTH & SAFETY**
During this trip we were never sick, but I did not feel very well during our first ascent of Balan Shan (4500 m)
It is important that you realise that you can get into problems if you ascend too fast to areas above 4000 m. If you suffer from altitude sickness it is important that you descend as soon as possible. The trail going down at km 29 at Mengbi Shan (from 4000 going down to 3800 m.) and especially going back up again is a killer. If you spend the night at lower altitudes (1500 to 2000m) you minimise the chances of getting problems with the altitude. On the Tibetan plateau you sleep at an altitude of 3500 m, so it is important that you have acclimatised by that time! Travelling around Sichuan is very safe, though the driving can be dangerous.

**WEATHER**
The weather can make or break your trip. We experienced all kinds of weather during our trip. Beautiful sunny days in the mountains, sometimes warm or even hot and chilly at other times, mainly because of the wind. We also had days with a nasty, cold drizzle and worst of all, fog. On the Tibetan plateau we lost one full day because of a heavy snowstorm! So you have to be prepared for all kinds of weather conditions. I brought hat, gloves, shawl, fleece jacket, umbrella and rain gear with me and I needed them all. Good sun protection is also a necessity.

**BIRDING**
During our preparations we mainly relied on the excellent reports of the Collaerts brothers, Vincent van der Spek and especially the reports written by Remco Hofland about Sichuan. Especially the waypoints in the latter were much appreciated. I had collected a nice selection of vocalisations on an I-pod, mainly from Jelle Scharinga’s DVD and from Xeno Canto-Asia. From time to time I also recorded a song on a Philips voicetracer with Sennheizer MK 300 mike, to tape a bird in. Looking back, our itinerary worked out fine but I think because of a late and cold spring some species were not (yet) or at least less vocal than normal.
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* Sichuan, China, May 18 – June 18, 2006  Peter Collaerts
* China: Sichuan & Qing Hai 7 - 27 July 2007  Vincent van der Spek
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  This article proposes splits between Himalayan and southwest Chinese populations
  of certain rosefinch species.

Map
* Map of central China (2008, Nelles maps, 1: 1,500.000)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
I would like to thank Remco Hofland for all the additional info provided by him during
many phone calls I had with him and Jan-Hein for collecting the necessary way-points on
his GPS.
SITES
Introduction
The information provided in this section is mainly an update of the info given in the reports of the Collaerts brothers, Remco Hofland and Vincent van der Spek. Additional info is given of sites not visited by them.

1.WOLONG AREA.
The small city of Wolong is roughly 100 kms west of Chengdu (depending on traffic and road works some 4 to 5 hours by car)
Because of the earthquake in 2008 many hotels have been closed down and only a few smaller hotels provide adequate accommodation.
We stayed at hotel Lin Hui (80 RMB for a double)

Sawan area
The hillside behind the deserted Wolong Grand Hotel is sometimes referred to as Sawan.
The specialties are Golden Pheasant and Slaty Bunting but a nice selection of more common species can also be observed in the general area.
Access to the upper level of the hillside is provided by generally steep trails. We followed the information mentioned in R.Hoflands report and found the trailhead easily.
Search behind the Wolong Grand Hotel for the low concrete wall and by ascending the steps which are located at certain spots in this wall, you can get easy access to the hillside. Several trails are going up this hill and are worth exploring.
I think we were rather lucky at this site as we paid only brief visits in the afternoon to the hillside and found a male Slaty Bunting, just behind the Wolong Grand Hotel and also had good views of a male Golden Pheasant not far up the hill. We never explored the upper level of this hillside.

Wuyipeng
About 4 to 5 km. west of Wolong (along the main road going up towards Balan Shan) there is a small village (called Wulidun). In the village there is a small pedestrian bridge over the river and a few hundred metres further towards Balan Shan a wider bridge is overarching the river. On the other side of the river you will have to find the right access trail up to the research station of Wuyipeng.
It will take you approximately 1 hour of steady climbing (without birding) on a sometimes muddy and steep trail to reach the ridge trail. (2500 m.)
Then the trail levels out for another km. before you actually reach the ranger station. On both of our visits we never met any ranger in the area.
There are more possibilities behind and just before the ranger station for birding along sometimes steep trails and crossing some tricky, small bridges.
Best species seen by us include: Temmick’s Tragopan, Spotted Laughingthrush, Barred Laughingthrush, Firethroat, Sichuan Treecreeper, Sooty Tit and Great Parrotbill, Sichuan Leaf-Warbler and Marten’s Warbler.

Balan Shan Area.
In the early morning, the Balan Shan Pass (4500 m) can be reached in 1½ hour by car from Wolong.
It can be foggy, cold, raining or even snowing near the pass, even in May and June.
Best species seen at the Balan Shan pass and immediately beyond/below include: Lammergeier, Himalayan Griffon, Cinereous Vulture, Snow Partridge, Tibetan Snowcock (We found them at a grassy patch just before the pass itself), Snow Pigeon, Grandala, Alpine Accentor, Red-faced Rosefinch, Streaked Rosefinch, Plain & Brandt’s Mountain-Finch.

Lower down (back towards Wolong) at KM 94 (where power lines cross the road), the steep, grassy meadows hold Wood Snipe, which rode just before dawn.
In the morning we visited the area; we did not hear the species, possibly because of the foggy conditions.
Further lower down at **KM 92** (at the Wolong side of a tunnel and near a road workers’ camp) is a stake-out for **Himalayan Monal** and **White-eared Pheasant**. The best strategy is to walk a few hundred meters further down towards Wolong (there is an obvious flat area, just outside the crash barrier with a big rock) and to scan the hillsides from that point. In the early morning with the sun in our back we observed both species easily between 7.00 and 8.15.

Best species include: **Himalayan Monal**, **White-eared Pheasant**, **Koklass Pheasant**, **Chestnut-throated Partridge** and **Kessler’s Thrush**.

About 4 km lower down at ca **KM 88**, **White Obelisk area**.
We walked down twice from KM 92 to the White Obelisk but this was a bit disappointing, mainly because we did that stretch at the “wrong” time of the day.

The area immediately below the White Obelisk also is worthwhile according to others. Nice views of **Giant Laughingthrush**. Other species include **Blue-fronted Redstart** and **Hodgson’s Treecreeper**.

The **Western side of the Balan Shan pass** is also worthwhile to explore. We only stopped briefly at a few sites, while on transit to Rilong and on to Mengbi Shan. Because it was at midday and because we could find the occurring species easily at other sites we did not bother too much. We observed our first **White-throated Redstart**.

### 2. MENGBI SHAN

This site is easily reached from the town of Maerkang (1 hour drive along a fine road), which has sufficient accommodation. We stayed at hotel Min Shan (200 RMB for a double).

The pass at Mengbi Shan is at 4000 m. We mainly birded along the main road down from km. 30 (at the pass) to km 24. The road provides easy and rather quiet roadside birding but this could change in the near future.

At km 29 a trail goes down through a scrubby field to a nice patch of forest. You descend from 4000 to about 3800 m. Going back up was killing us.

Along the trail and in the forest you can find **Chinese Fulveta** (we dipped) and the forest patch itself is reliable for **Severtov’s Grouse**, which we saw.

Best species seen along the main road and in the general area include: **Chestnut-throated Partridge** (HO), **Blood Pheasant**, **White-eared Pheasant**, **Sichuan Jay**, **Crested Tit-Warbler**, **Maroon-backed Accentor**, **White-throated Redstart**, **Giant Laughingthrush**, several species of Rosefinch and **White-winged Grosbeak**. **Przewalski’s Nuthatch** is also possible but we failed to find it.

### TIBETAN PLATEAU

We birded one full afternoon in the area some 50 km. before Hongyuan and one full day between Hongyuan - Wa Qie – Roergai.

A nice, scrubby valley along a stream, some km before Hongyuan, was rather birdy and held some good species like **Himalayan Griffon**, **Plain Laughingthrush**, **Hodgson’s Redstart**, **White-browed Tit-Warbler** and best of all the rare **White-browed Tit**.

Between Hongyuan and Roergai we made many road stops and best species seen include: **Black-necked Crane**, **Azure-winged Magpie**, **Hume’s Groundpecker**, **Daurian Jackdaw**, **Godlewski’s Bunting** and **Tibetan Lark**.

An enjoyable half hour at a small marsh just outside Wa Qie gave us a nice selection of waterbirds.
We had also planned to bird the stretch north of Roergai to Daba Lake and its immediate surroundings but because of heavy snowfall we had to change our plans.
JIUZHAIGOU N.P.
To be honest, if it was not for the possibility of finding Rufous-headed Robin in this national park, I would personally opt for not visiting this site.

The landscape is extraordinary, the organisation smoothly but the presence of thousands of noisy Chinese tourists and the restrictions to leave the main sites for birding, made the experience from a birder's point of view disappointing to say the least.

They have a strict system of large touring cars going up and down the valleys and they stop at designated places only.

The park opens at 7.00 am in the morning (entrance fee is an expensive 320 RMB) and the first bus to the primeval forest (in the direction of Swan Lake) leaves a little after seven. After a one hour drive you reach the parking lot of Primeval Forest at about 8.00 am. It is possible to bird approximately one hour at this site before it gets too crowded. The first bus into the other valley of Jiuzhaigou N.P. , to the parking lot of Long Lake leaves around 8.30 am! This means you arrive 35 minutes later (after 9.00 am) at Long Lake.

One morning I was able to negotiate that we would be allowed to travel in a bus with local workers to the Long lake area at around 7.15 am in the morning. We arrived at 8.00 in the morning and were able to bird undisturbedly for an hour or so. That is how we were able to locate Sukatschev’s Laughingthrush.

From trip reports I knew that there are 2 trails worth exploring: first the trail which starts just behind the toilet building of Pearl Shoals. We walked this trail around noon and it was rather birdless but an early morning would be great, but you have to make sure that the officials (that are everywhere) do not see you leave the main trail.

The second trail is the Kezegou trail, which starts from the road towards Long lake. It is roughly 3 km up from the village of Zechawa, but the trail head is very difficult to find. Older reports mention a bridge and a rushing torrent but that is no longer the case. My advise is to walk up from Zechawa village and try to find the small stream from the board walk after roughly 3 km and get off the boardwalk and walk/bird along the small trail, adjacent to the stream. The trail goes through a beautiful stretch of forest (especially after a small, overgrown concrete dam) and this is the area where Rufous-headed Robin occurs. We, however, failed to find it. We followed the trail until we crossed the stream at a small yak shed.

WANGLANG N.R.
This is another reserve, originally set up for the protection of the Giant Panda. It is a very quiet place, compared to Jiuzhaigou and has some great birds. It takes some 4 hours to reach this reserve from Jiuzhaigou. From the entrance it is another 9 km. to the accommodation area. They were rebuilding the entrance road and when we arrived at the accommodation area, we found out that we were the only visitors. We negotiated a nice room for 300 RMB. We mainly birded along the main road up, around the accommodation area and along a small trail (River Trail) This trail was rather disappointing and not well maintained. This must be the best/easiest place in the world to observe Blue-eared Pheasant, as they feed in the pastures behind the accommodation area later afternoon and early morning. It was remarkable that spring had hardly arrived at Wanglang and though we saw some good birds, it was not very birdy. Two/three weeks later would have been much better at this site.

QINGCHENG SHAN
Not a necessary site to visit but conveniently close to Chengdu (1½ hour by car).

We mainly birded along the entrance road and the trails on the hill sides just before the entrance.

Best species recorded were: Chinese Bamboo Partridge (HO), Lesser Cuckoo, Sulphur-breasted Warbler, White-browed Scimitar-Babbler, White-browed Laughingthrush, Vinous-throated Parrotbill, Swinhoe’s Minivet and Black-throated Tit.
WAWU SHAN
This table mountain is easily reached from Chengdu (4 hours by car). This site is far less crowded than Emei Shan and the specialties are also more easily seen at Wawu Shan.

The top (around 2500 m) is best for the specialties and is reached by cable car (this takes 30 minutes) from the accommodation area at Gongtong Shanzhuang.

The problem, especially at the top, is fog and rain. The weather is extremely unpredictable and nice, sunny days are rare during May, according to the locals.

On the top there are well-maintained trails, which are easy to follow. (mostly level trails).

Best is the trail from the cable car toward Mandarin Duck Pond. Pay special attention to the so-called bamboo flats where you stand the best chance of finding specialties like Grey-hooded Parrotbill, Three-toed Parrotbill, Brown Bush-Warbler, Chestnut-crowned Bush-Warbler and Spotted Bush-Warbler.

In the more forested areas Temminck's Tragopan, Great Parrotbill, Fulvous Parrotbill and both Sichuan Treecreeper and Hodgson's Treecreeper. Black-faced Laughingthrush was also seen. Warblers include Buff-barred Leaf-Warbler, Sichuan Leaf-Warbler and a single Klossi's Warbler.

There is also basic accommodation and a restaurant at the top but we opted to stay down and to take the cable car up. Don’t forget to pay a visit to the rubbish dump behind the restaurant. We observed White-tailed Robin and a pair of White-bellied Redstart among others.

Gongtong Shanzhuang is the assembly of houses, ticket office, restaurant and accommodation at the start of the cable car (around 2000 m. at Km.22)

We found the small circular trail behind the hotel but it was overgrown, wet and muddy.

We mainly birded the area some 3 km down from GS, where there was a large patch of bamboo and overgrown, deserted vegetable gardens.

We also walked down from km 15 to km 9/10 (which is the third and largest bridge, seen from the entrance of Wawu) Roadside birding can be very rewarding on this stretch.

Birds observed at middle altitude include: Lady Amherst Pheasant, Chinese Babax, Buffy Laughingthrush, Red-winged Laughingthrush, Spotted Laughingthrush, Emei Leaf-Warbler, Buff-throated Warbler, Great Parrotbill, Grey-headed Parrotbill, Emei Shan Liocichla, Red-billed Leiothrix, Rufous-bellied Niltava, Vinaceous Rosefinch and Great Hill Barbet.

BIFENG XIA
We had not really planned to visit this site but because we were denied access to Labahe N.R. we decided to change plans on the spot and to travel to Bifeng Xia.

The only info we had, was taken from a report written by John & Jemi Holmes.

Bifeng Xia is less than 3 hours from Chengdu along a good highway.

Accommodation is plentiful but week-ends are best avoided. We had no option but we easily found a cheap hostel (100 RMB for a double)

Close to our accommodation (5 minute walk) was the entrance to the park where you can buy your entrance ticket. (opening at 7.00 am) By showing our passport we were given a 50% discount. (90 RMB instead of 180 RMB). For this you can visit the gorge and later the Panda Gardens.

Just right of the entrance is an elevator (90 meters) which takes you straight down to the bottom of the gorge. We spent an enjoyable morning birding along the stream in the gorge.

There are also trails going up from the bottom of the gorge, which we did not explore. We visited at the week-end so it was rather crowded but not too bad during the first hours of the day. Some of the birds seen include Mountain Hawk Eagle, Chinese Bamboo Partridge (HO), Red-capped Babbler, Pygmy Wren-Babbler, Little Forktail, Slaty-backed Forktail and Spot-backed Forktail, Alstrom's Warbler.

We also birded a few km. along the circular road, which starts right of the elevator area.
Not much traffic, only the regular tourist buses transporting tourists to the entrance of the Panda gardens, some 5 km. from the start of the circular road. This road stretch was surprisingly birdy. Here we found Black-breasted Scimitar-Babbler, Hwamei, White-browed Laughingthrush and Ashy-throated Parrotbill. We visited the Panda gardens twice and away from the tourists there are quiet stretches of forests along smaller trails, which were nice to bird. It is also possible to hike from the gardens down to the gorge and further to the elevator area.

**YANGXIAN – THE CRESTED IBIS SITE**

We had not really planned to visit this site but the idea came up during the trip, also because we were a couple of days ahead of our schedule. But it was not until we met Richard Hopf at Wanglang, that our idea became more concrete.

We thought that it was only possible to find the exact site and to get permission to visit this site, we’d need to contact a travel agency to organise this.

But Richard told us that if you searched in the immediate area around Yangxian, there would be a very good chance of finding the ibis independently. Though we did not have exact info we took our chances and went for it. It turned out to be very easy.

It is roughly 600 km from Chengdu to Yangxian according to our driver. From Chengdu you take the highway (G5) towards Hanzhong and Xian. Some 40 km. east of Hanzhong you leave the highway at the exit to a place called Chenggu.

From Chenggu you drive north-east towards Yangxian. After about 15 km. you arrive at a large bridge. We found the ibises foraging in the rice paddies, just before the bridge on the south-east side of the road. You can also walk along the tracks along the river banks, south-east of the bridge where we observed ibises foraging in the grassland along the river. We saw them easily also from the bridge itself.

At least 2 pairs of Long-billed Plovers were found as well along the river. So you do not need to go off the road to look for this rare bird in its breeding habitat and instead you can observe it from a public road, foraging along the river or in the adjacent rice paddies, without disturbing it.
Wolong – Balan Shan Area

Km 98 Balan Shan Pass (4500m.) – Tibetan Snowcock, Snow Partridge, Snow Pigeon, Red-faced Rosefinch, Streaked Rosefinch.

Workers camp at km.92, just before tunnel – Chinese Monal, Koklass P., White-earred Ph., Chestnut-throated Partridge, Kessler’s Thrush.

Start of route to pedestrian bridge to trail of Wuyipeng: wp N31° 00'05.2"/E103° 08'46.5"
Start of trail to Wuyipeng itself: N31° 00'04.7"/E103° 08'48.8"

White Obelisk

Bridge

3 – 4 km.

Small pedestrian bridge

Stream

Trail to Wuyipeng
Photograph: Remco Hofland (Farm house is visible in the middle of the picture)
WAWU SHAN

- Start of cablecar
- Extensive bamboo fields. Good for parrotbills, bush warblers.
- Wooden shacks
- Hotel/restaurant area
- Closed trail
- Extensive bamboo fields. Good for parrotbills, bush warblers.
- Forested area with Tragopan, Great Parrotbill and Sichuan Treecreeper

30 minutes to the top by cable car

Good roadside birding between km 15 and km 9 (the bridge). LA Pheasant, Ch.Babax, ES Liochichla, L.thrushes, Emei L.Warbler.

WAWU SHAN TOP

- Wooden shacks
- Mandarin Duck Pond
- Hotel/restaurant area
- Cable Car station

WAWU SHAN

Gongtong Shanzhuang at km 22 (restaurant + accommodation)

3th bridge from entrance at ±km 9.
DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Friday April 30th  Geldrop – Amsterdam – Chengdu
We (me, my brother Frans and Jos Aarts) took the 12.15 pm train from Geldrop to Schiphol airport. Because of Koninginnedag it was very crowded on the train as many people were travelling to Amsterdam for all kinds of festivities. At Schiphol we met Jan Hein, who’d flown in from London. Left Amsterdam at 17.30 pm on a KLM flight to Chengdu.

Day 2: Saturday May 1st  Chengdu – Wolong
We arrived at Chengdu at 9.00 am. We were greeted by our interpreter/guide and driver for the next 2 weeks. We paid in cash for the car and their services to a representative of the car hire firm and we also drew 4000 RMB each from an ATM at the airport. At 10.30 we left for the drive to Wolong. Because of a Chinese holiday it was extremely busy on the road and unfortunately at one point we were stopped by the police and they refused to let us drive on to Wolong. According to our guide this was because of the fact that too many cars were driving towards Wolong to remember the victims of the 2008 earthquake in the area. Anyway, after a basic lunch along the road and a long wait we finally got permission to continue to Wolong where we arrived at 17.00 pm. We stayed in hotel Lin Hui (80 RMB for a double) The last couple of hours of the day were spent on the hill side, behind the deserted Grand Wolong hotel. We heard several Golden Pheasants but our best find was a vocal Slaty Bunting which showed briefly to us.

Day 3: Sunday May 2  Wuyipeng
We had a very early breakfast at our hotel and then drove the short distance to the start of the trail to the research station at Wuyipeng. At 6.45 we started our steep ascend to the ridge. At the beginning we took a wrong turn but we quickly noticed our mistake. Slowly, we birded our way up to the ridge, where we arrived around 10.00 am. The weather was fine, even hot. Best bird was the superb observation of a Firethroat. Barred Laughingthrush and Spotted laughingthrush were also observed. We spent several hours on the ridge trail up to the research station. There was no one present at the station where we had our lunch. We had very good views of a pair of Sooty Tits around the station but no sign of Temmick’s Tragopan. Other notable species include some Fire Tits, Rufous-breasted Tits, Sichuan Leaf Warbler, Claudia’s Leaf-Warbler, Marten’s Warbler and Western Chinese Leaf-Warbler. In the afternoon we birded back down the trail. Near the main road we encountered our first Elliot’s Laughingthrush and an unexpected Chinese Babax. Late afternoon was again spent on the hill side behind the Wolong Grand hotel (Sawan). Highlight was the observation of a gorgeous male Golden Pheasant. After a joint effort we all got good views of the bird.

Day 4: Monday May 3  Balan Shan area
We left very early in the morning (4.15 am) because we wanted to be at a known stake-out (KM 94) for Wood Snipe at dawn. Unfortunately, when we arrived at the site it was rather foggy. Just after dawn the fog lifted a bit, but I think it was too late because we did not hear or see the species. Then we drove back a bit to KM 92, which used to be a reliable stake-out for Himalayan Monal and White-eared Pheasant. But again heavy fog. When we walked along the main road in the fog we surprised a male Koklas Pheasant and also several White-eared Pheasants at very close range. Despite the fog we decided to try our luck up at the pass. We birded several hours around the pass where it was very cold and of and on very foggy. We did see Snow Partridge and Grandala.
In the afternoon we birded down from KM 92 to the white obelisk. Great views of Giant Laughingthrush. I did not feel very well in the afternoon, probably an effect of the altitude. Just before dusk we got back at our hotel.

In the evening we discussed our options for the next day and we decided that Jos en Jan Hein would visit Wuyipeng again and Frans and I would go back to the Balan Shan area.

**Day 5: Tuesday May 4**  
**Balan Shan area**

We dropped Jan Hein and Jos at the start of the trail to Wuyipeng at 6.30 am and drove on to KM 92. Today it was clear and sunny.

Here we started to scan the hill side when suddenly a Chinese Monal flew by, but unfortunately landed out of sight. We decided to back up the road a few hundred meters because this would give us a better view of the sunlit mountain side.

Frans discovered a ♀ Chinese Monal and this bird gave great views in the scope. Later we saw another ♀ which was even seen displaying on a rock.

We also had great views of White-eared Pheasants at this site. Because the weather seemed fine at the pass we decided to bird the area around the pass itself again. We spent at least 4 hours in the area. It was sunny with an icy wind, interrupted by periods with heavy fog. We scanned the slopes for Tibetan Snowcock, but despite the fact we heard the species calling for a short period we could not locate them. Best species were 2 ♀♀ and 1 ♀ Red-faced Rosefinch, right at the pass.

A flock of Snow Pigeons was also a great sight against the dramatic background of Balan Shan.

In the afternoon we descended again and birded the area between KM 92 and the white obelisk. It was rather hot and bird activity low.

When we drove back towards Wolong we were forced to wait for 3 hours at a site because of road works. Just before dusk we arrived at our hotel where we heard the stories of Jan Hein and Jos.

They arrived at the ridge of Wuyipeng at 7.30 am and spent all day on the ridge and on the trails beyond the research station. Jan Hein briefly saw 3 different ♀♀ Temmick’s Tragopans. They also heard a ♂ but it refused to show.

Best species was the observation of a very vocal Sichuan Treecreeper which Jan Hein tape recorded. At first we thought it was a first for this site but it turned out that Frank Rheindt also saw the bird at Wuyipeng. They also observed a singing ♂ Great Parrotbill and several Firethroats.

We decided to bird the Balan Shan area again in the morning and then to continue to Maerkang.

**Day 6: Wednesday May 5**  
**Balan Shan area – drive to Maerkang.**

Around 7.30 am we were at KM 92. Again sunny.

We had great views of at least 3 different ♀♀ Chinese Monals. We also had extremely close and good views of a pair of Chestnut-throated Partridges at this site.

We then continued towards the pass. Roughly 1 km before the pass we heard Tibetan Snowcock calling. Incredibly, Jan Hein found a pair of Snowcocks, feeding on a grassy area on the opposite slope. When we located the exact site in the scope, it turned out that the birds were actually close to the road further up. We drove to that area and had amazing and lengthy views of the foraging pair.

We birded around the pass for another hour where we had Snow Pigeon, 2 species of Mountain Finch, Grandala and best of all Streaked Rosefinch.

We then descended on the other side of the pass and made some roadside stops before we had lunch at Rilong. We observed our first White-throated Redstart and located several Western Chinese Leaf-Warblers.

In the afternoon we drove via Mengbi Shan to the city of Maerkang where we arrived in the late afternoon. During a short stop at Mengbi Shan we had good views of 2 pairs of Blood Pheasants.
Day 7: Thursday May 6  
Mengbi Shan
At dawn we arrived just below the pass of Mengbi Shan. The next couple of hours we walked down from Km 29 to Km 24. The weather was fine, even warm. Soon we had excellent views of several Sichuan Jays, a species which can be tricky to find. We also had brief but good views of a Crested Tit-Warbler, which turned out to be the only one of the trip. A couple of Blood Pheasants also gave great views but no sign of the Prezvalski’s Nuthatch.

In the afternoon we drove back up to the pass and decided to take the trail down at km 29. This trail descends from 4000 m to 3800 m, initially through a field with scattered scrub and then through a nice patch of forest. The target species were Severtov’s/Chinese Grouse and Chinese Fulvetta. A pair of the former gave brief views but we failed to find the fulvetta.

The ascend back up to the road was a real killer. In the late afternoon we drove back to Maerkang. In the evening we discussed if we should visit Mengbi Shan again the next morning or to continue to Hongyuan on the Tibetan plateau. We decided to continue.

Day 8: Friday May 7  
Maerkang – Hongyuan
Before dawn we left Maerkang and when we passed the turn-off to Mengbi Shan we noticed that the mountain was shrouded in mist and rain. The road was terrible and we later heard that this stretch was completely closed down and that several tour groups had to reschedule their itinerary. We made several road stops and one stretch of good forest on a pass looked very promising. We spent 2 hours in the area and though we saw some nice birds, not the hoped for nuthatch.

In the early afternoon we arrived at the Tibetan plateau proper. In a nice looking valley (WP ?) we made a stroll. Some very good species were found. Best was a White-browed Tit but also White-browed Tit-Warbler, Plain Laughingthrush, Hodgson’s Redstart etc. were observed. Just before Hongyuan we found our first Black-necked Cranes though distant views. In heavy rain we arrived at our hotel in Hongyuan. In the evening we had a very nice dinner at a Tibetan restaurant.

Day 9: Saturday May 8  
Honguan – Roergai
Dawn found us at a scrubby hill side a few km outside Hongyuan. It was rather chilly, overcast weather conditions and some light rain from time to time. At this hill we found Godlewski’s Bunting.

Later as we continued on the plateau, the weather improved. We encountered big herds of Yaks accompanied by fierce looking Tibetan horsemen/women. We made several road stops and found the Tibetan specialties one by one. Hume’s Groundpecker, Oriental Skylark, Tibetan Lark, several pairs of Black-necked Cranes etc. But no Daurian Jackdaw, a species high on my list because it has been recorded in the WP. (I missed the bird when it turned up in The Netherlands!) Near the village of Wa Qie we spent some enjoyable time at a small marsh which yielded some waterbirds.

Finally we arrived at Roergai. In the late afternoon we visited a site near Roergai where the Collaerts brothers had found Tibetan Grey Shrike and Pink-tailed Bunting but we saw neither of them.

Day 10: Sunday May 9  
Roergai – Jiuzhaigou
We had planned to spend the entire day on the plateau near Daba Lake, some 50 km. north of Roergai to admire the landscape and to observe its typical avifauna. But when we woke up it was snowing heavily and we could not see more than 50 meters ahead. We decided to drive into that direction anyway, but after 20 km. we realised that it was useless and even dangerous to continue. So we turned around and decided to leave the area and head for Jiuzhaigou. Just outside Roergai we were lucky to observe
twice an adult **Daurian Jackdaw**. After a long drive we arrived at Jiuzhaigou where we got a very nice room in hotel. Despite the drizzle we climbed up on one of the nearby scrubby hill sides to go birding. Species seen include **Common Pheasant**, **Yellow-bellied Tit**, **Taiga Flycatcher**, **Yellow-streaked Warbler** and female **Blue Rock Thrush**.

**Day 11: Monday May 10**  
Jiuzhaigou (Primeval Forest – Swan Lake – Pearl Shoals trail – Long Lake)

At exactly 7.00 am we bought our entrance ticket to the park (expensive 320 RMB) and soon we boarded our coach for the drive to the Primeval Forest where we arrived at 8.00 am. It was very cold and we birded for one hour just around the parking lot. We saw a beautiful ♀ **Himalayan Bluetail**, **Elliott’s Laughingthrush** and best were both **Vinaceous Rosefinch** and a lonely ♀ **Three-banded Rosefinch**.

Then we made the mistake of walking down towards Swan Lake and on to Pearl Shoals and from there sneak in onto the trail, behind the toilet buildings. The weather was nice and sunny but the appearance of thousands of tourists made it all quite unpleasant.

It was already noon when we entered the trail, but unfortunately we were spotted by some officials who would come after us after a while. To avoid trouble we decided to return to the main road and in the afternoon we birded around the parking lot of Long Lake. Here we had spectacular scope views of 2 Takins (a rare mammal) on a scree slope. At 18.00 p.m. we left the park but at the information centre I arranged permission to drive to the Long Lake parking lot at 7.00 am the next morning with the working crew. This meant that we had at least one hour of undisturbed birding before the first tourists started to arrive. Nice dinner in one of the outdoor restaurants, just outside our hotel.

**Day 12: Tuesday May 11**  
Jiuzhaigou (Long Lake – Kezegou Trail)

Because of the late arrival of some crew members we left at 7.20 am and arrived just before 8 at the Long Lake Parking lot. Highlight was the nice observation of a pair of **Sukatschev’s Laughingthrushes** together with the **Elliott’s** near the parking area.

At 9.15 we took the bus down and were dropped just below the upper seasonal lake. We told the officials that we wanted to walk down to the village of Zechawa. After some searching we finally located the start of the Kezegou Trail. The situation has changed quite a lot since there is hardly a significant stream left to look for.

Just before 10.00 am we entered the trail, the weather was fine and the forest beautiful. We spent at least 4 hours on this trail. (To a stream crossing with a dilapidated shed on the opposite side). Despite the fact that we were in the right habitat and the weather was fine, not a sniff of **Rufous-headed Robin**. This was a major disappointment for us.

At 15.00 pm we left the trail and walked down to the village, where we took the bus to the entrance.

**Day 13: Wednesday May 12**  
Jiuzhaigou – Wanglang N.R.

In the early morning we spent a couple of hours on a scrubby hill side, close to our hotel. The target species was **Spectacled Fulvetta** but we dipped.

Species seen were : **Russet Sparrow**, **Slaty-backed Flycatcher** and **Dusky Warbler**. At 10.00 we left for Wanglang N.R. and 3 hours later we arrived at the entrance. There we were told that the reserve was closed to visitors because the road to the accommodation area (a 9/10 km stretch) was under construction and not driveable. It was just too dangerous. I made a great fuss and finally they gave permission to continue, but they made it clear that we were not insured on this stretch!! Without any problems we arrived at the almost deserted HQ and accommodation area. We did encounter plenty of trucks and road works but nothing we could not handle.

After some negotiation we got a nice double room for 300 RMB. We were the only visitors.

It was still very early spring at this site and I think we were at least 2 weeks early for most species. Unfortunately, when we started to bird along the main dirt track, it started to rain, which made birding rather unpleasant.
When we returned at the accommodation area, I suddenly spotted 2 Blue-eared Pheasants in a meadow, just behind the chalets. That was the speciality we wanted to see at this site. Because we were a couple of days ahead of our schedule, we discussed our options to visit Yangxian, the site for the Crested Ibis. When I contacted one of the travel agencies who organised trips to this site, they asked quite a lot of money. At least 600 RMB a person, fee for a local guide and another 800 RMB for taking pictures. So around €400,-
We decided against it and discussed alternatives.

Day 14: Thursday May 13 Wanglang N.R. – Guangyuan
At dawn we were looking at the meadow and again had incredible views of at least 2 pairs of Blue-eared Pheasants. When I sneaked behind a chalet I could approach one pair within 10 meters!
Unexpectedly, we bumped into Richard Hopf, with whom I had birded some time in central Peru, a few years ago. He had just arrived with his wife Betty and could conveniently tick the pheasant through the scope. We talked a bit and he told us that it was possible to find the Crested Ibis from the road between 2 villages, near Yangxian.
After some discussion and negotiations with our driver we decided to try for the Ibis. Richard went birding further along the road at a higher altitude and we birded around the accommodation area for a couple of hours. We also briefly visited the nearby River Trail but this was no success.
Around noon we left Wanglang and after a long drive we left the mountains and reached the main highway (G5) and drove to the city of Guangyuan, where we took a hotel.

Day 15: Friday May 14 Guangyuan – Yangxian – Guangyuan
We left at 8.30 am and at 12.00 we arrived at the core area. We drove slowly from the village of Chenggu to YangXian (10-15 KM).
Suddenly, just before a long bridge, I noticed a Crested Ibis in a rice paddy, just next to the road! The car quickly came to a halt and we had great views. A couple of hundred meters further along the road, especially on the south side of the bridge, we had more fantastic views of Crested Ibis. They foraged in the rice paddies and along the banks of the Homguan river. At this site you can easily observe the Ibis, without disturbing this rare bird. Additionally, we found 2 pairs of Long-billed Plovers along the river and because of their behaviour we suspect, they breed at this site.
We birded on both sides of the river to 16.15 and then left for the drive back to Guangyuan, where we took a room in the same hotel as the day before.

Day 16: Saturday May 15 Guangyuan – Qingcheng Shan
We drove along the G5 towards Chengdu and on to Qingcheng Shan where we arrived early in the afternoon. From time to time some drizzle. We birded a bit in the garden of our hotel and best species was a Swinhoe’s Minivet, which was briefly seen and a flock of Black-throated Tits
From 14.30 to 17.30 pm we birded around the entrance of the temple complex of Qingcheng Shan.
Because of the week-end there were a lot of Chinese tourists.
Despite that, we saw White-browed Laughingthrush, Collared Finchbill, Vinous-throated Parrotbill, Lesser Cuckoo and Black-throated Tit.

Day 17: Sunday May 16 Qingcheng Shan – Chengdu
At dawn we started to bird just outside the temple complex and added Chinese Bamboo Partridge (HO), Sulphur-breasted Warbler, Mountain Bulbul to our list.
At 8.00 am we entered the temple complex itself and climbed the steep steps up to the main temple, together with plenty of noisy Chinese tourists.
We ended with some more birding outside and after lunch we packed our stuff and left
for Chengdu. We arrived at Chengdu (Holly’s Hostel) in late afternoon. Finally access to internet and I made a phone call home. In the evening French fries with hamburger.

**Day 18: Monday May 17  Chengdu – Wawu Shan**
At 7.00 am we said goodbye to Jan Hein and Jos, who left for the airport for their flight home.
A little later Frans and I left with another car and driver for Wawu Shan. At 11.00 we entered the park and started to bird the lower part of Wawu Shan.
At the third bridge we met Richard again. Good views of **Chinese Babax**.
We slowly walked along the road but soon the fog came in. We decided to continue to the hotel area to sort things out. It was chilly when we arrived at Gongtong Shanzhuang. I had pre-booked accommodation at this site through Sam but unfortunately they had booked a room without hot water and heating. After some negotiating and some extra money we booked a room for 4 nights in the same building as Richard. (With heating and hot water)
In the afternoon we birded along the first couple of km along the entrance road down. We decided to go to the top the next day by cable car, no matter what weather conditions would be.

**Day 19: Tuesday May 18  Wawu Shan – top of the plateau**
From 6.30 – 8.00 am we birded around our accommodation. Between 7.00 and 8.00 am we birded around our accommodation and had good views of 2♂ ♂ **Rufous-bellied Niltavas**, a pair of **Vinaceous Rosefinch** and best of all our first **Emei Shan Liocichla**.
At exactly 8.00 am we took the cable car up and arrived at the plateau half an hour later. Unfortunately, it was foggy and most of the day a nasty drizzle. Only during a period of 1½ hours was it relatively dry.
As soon as we started to bird we had good views of a pair of very cooperative **Fulvous Parrotbills**. We biggest surprise came when suddenly an adult ♀ **Temminck’s Tragopan** flew in and landed close by on a bare branch where it stayed for a minute or so, giving reasonable views despite the fog.
We continued and met Robby, a Chinese researcher on **Sichuan Treecreeper**. He gave us some info about the locations where we were likely to find the specialties of the plateau.
With him we located a vocal pair of **Sichuan Treecreepers** and also a **Hodgson’s Treecreeper** for comparison. He also showed us a **Great Parrotbill** on the nest. At noon we had lunch at the restaurant and visited the rubbish dump. Here we had great views of ♀ ♂ **White-bellied Redstart**.
In the afternoon we strolled back towards the cable car and best species was **Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler**.
We arrived back down at 17.00 pm and met Dian Hobcroft with a Vent tour. They had **Lady Amherst Pheasant** on the road and at a nice bamboo patch a few **Spot-winged Rosefinches**.
We decided to try our luck and drove down to the bridge. On our way up again we had great views of a ♀ **Lady Amherst Pheasant**, slowly crossing the road.

**Day 20: Wednesday May 19  Wawu Shan – top of plateau**
When we got up the weather still did not look right and the top was fully cloaked in clouds. Frans wanted to go birding down along the main road, where the weather was better but I persuaded him to try the plateau again as we had to find the specialties there.
So at 8.00 am we took the cable car again to the plateau. It was dry but unfortunately very foggy. Around 10.00 am the fog lifted suddenly for 2 hours and during these magic 2 hours we scored our targets.
First we were lucky to stumble upon a lone **Three-toed Parrotbill**, then we heard the typical call of **Grey-hooded Parrotbill**, close to the trail. But we had to climb onto a
rubbish bin to obtain good views of a pair of Grey-hooded Parrotbills. Meanwhile we also taped in a Spotted Bush-Warbler and Brown Bush-Warbler. Other notable species were: Sichuan Treecreeper, Fulvous Parrotbill, Aberrant Bush-Warbler (common), Sichuan Leaf-Warbler, Klossi’s Warbler, White-tailed Robin and Grey-headed Bullfinch. When the fog came in again, we decided to go down and to bird the rest of the afternoon between Gongtong Shanzhuang and the bridge. We spent some time at the area some 3 km down from GS. We observed Great Parrotbill, Spotted Laughingthrush, Buff-throated Warbler.

Day 21: Thursday May 20 Wawu Shan – Middle elevations
We started again at the nice bamboo patch and heavily overgrown deserted vegetable gardens, about 3 km down from GS. We had very good views of Emei Shan Liochichla and a pair of Buffy Laughingthrushes but Red-winged Laughingthrush was unfortunately only heard. Later we walked from km 15 to km 9 (The bridge). During our walk down we had good views of several vocal Emei Leaf-Warblers. They were rather common between km 12 and km 9 (The bridge). We also saw Grey Treepie, Chinese Babax and in a small flock again Buffy Laughingthrush and twice a Red-winged Laughingthrush.

We had told our driver to pick us up at the bridge around noon but he did not show up. Later when we were walking back up again, he came driving down. It appeared that he had had car problems and had had to drive down to the village to fix it. Then we made a mistake. Instead of driving down with him and to bird the lower stretches of the mountain where the weather was fine/sunny, we opted to go up to GS. As a result we spent all afternoon in our room as the fog was so dense that you could hardly see 10 meters in front of you. Very frustrating.

Day 22: Friday May 21 Wawu Shan – Labahe – Bifeng Xia
In the early morning we drove down with the intention to bird the lower elevations of the mountain for a couple of hours. We did so for 1 hour but decided to continue because of the rain. We had no fewer than 3 ♂ and 4 ♀ Lady Amherst Pheasants on the road, going down. At the entrance we saw a flock of Black-chinned Yuhinas. We drove on to Tanquain and then on to Labahe, but unfortunately got stuck in a terrible traffic jam on the main road because of a landslide. Finally we arrived at the entrance of Labehe N.R. only to find out that the reserve was completely closed to visitors. No access and all accommodation in the park was closed. At that time I felt really desperate. We came all the way to this beautiful, undisturbed area, the weather seemed fine and no way to get in. No chance of Streaked Barwing. We had no options but to leave and quickly decided to travel to Bifeng Xia to spend the last day there. Just before dusk we arrived at Bifeng Xia and took a room in one of the small local hostels.

Day 23: Saturday 22 Bifeng Xia
At dawn we birded a bit along the entrance of the park and at 7.00 am we went down with the elevator to the bottom of the gorge. We birded in the gorge in the morning. Chinese Bamboo Partridge was heard and a Mountain Hawk-Eagle cruised along the ridge. No fewer than 3 species of Forktail were observed (Little, Slaty-backed and White-crowned Forktail). Also Brown Dipper, Blue Whistling-Thrush, Red-capped Babbler, Pygmy Wren-Babbler and Alstrom’s Warbler. In the afternoon we decided to visit the nearby Panda Gardens. Besides the pandas we also saw a lot of Chinese tourists. Late afternoon was again spent along the entrance road. Here we observed Black-streaked Scimitar-Babbler, White-browed Laughingthrush, Collared Finchbill
and Ashy-throated Parrotbill.

Day 24: Sunday 23

We birded the entrance road and the panda gardens again until 11.00 am. More or less the same species but we had a nice flock of Hwamei, close to the road. At the gardens we saw White-browed Scimitar-Babbler, Sulphur-breasted Warbler, Brown-breasted Flycatcher and several singing Chinese Blue Flycatchers. At noon we left for the 3-hour drive to Chengdu. We took a room in Holly’s Hostel again. In the late afternoon I made a stroll in a very nice built shopping area with small streets, pubs and shops, only accessible to pedestrians. It was only 5 minutes from our hostel. There was also a small park adjacent to this shopping area which looked promising. I went back to get Frans (lying on his bed). We quickly located a few Yellow-billed Grosbeaks, Ashy-throated Parrotbills and Chinese Blackbird.

Day 25: Monday 24

At 7.00 am we left for the airport. 10.15 we took off and we landed at Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam, 9 hours later.

Henk Hendriks – hhendriks@onsmail.nl
Geldrop 01 June 2010
SHORT ITINERARY

30-04  Geldrop to Amsterdam by train
Flight Amsterdam – Chengdu (KLM)
01-05  Chengdu – Wolong
Later afternoon visit to Sawan
02-05  All day at Wuyipeng
Late afternoon at Sawan.
03-05  Balan Shan area: Balan Shan Pass, KM 94, KM 92, area around the White Obelisk.
04-05  All day Wuyipeng by Jan Hein and Jos
All day Balan Shan area.
05-05  Balan Shan area in the morning.
Afternoon drive to Rilong and on to Maerkang with a short stop at Mengbi Shan
06-05  All day at Mengbi Shan. Km 29 – 24 in the morning. Trail down at km 29 in afternoon.
07-05  Maerkang – Hongyuan. Stop at forested pass and nice valley near Hongyuan.
08-05  Hongyuan – Wa Qie – Roergai
Scrubby hill side in afternoon.
10-05  Jiuzhaigou N.P. Primeval Forest – Swan lake – Pearl Shoals (+trail) in the morning.
Long Lake area in the afternoon.
11-05  Jiuzhaigou N.P. Long Lake area – Kezegou trail – Zechawa
12-05  Scrubby hill side outside Jiuzhaigou in morning.
Drive to Wanglang N.R.
Afternoon Wanglang (entrance Rd + accommodation area)
13-05  Wanglang in the morning. Drive to Guangyuan in afternoon.
14-05  Guangyuan – Yangxian – Guangyuan
15-05  Guangyuan – Qingcheng Shan
16-05  Qingcheng Shan – Chengdu
17-05  Chengdu – Wawu Shan. Birding around GS
18-05  Wawu Shan. Cable car to top in the morning.
In the afternoon by car to bridge area.
19-05  Wawu Shan. Cable car to top in the morning.
Birding down from GS and by car to bridge area.
20-05  Wawu Shan. Birding down from GS and from KM 15 to 10 (The bridge)
21-05  Wawu Shan – Labahe N.R. – Bifeng Xia.
22-05  Bifeng Xia. Gorge in the morning and Panda gardens and entrance road in afternoon.
23-05  Bifeng Xia. Panda Gardens and entrance RD in the morning. Drive to Chengdu and afternoon visit to nearby park.
24-05  Chengdu – Amsterdam - Geldrop
SYSTEMATIC LIST OF OBSERVATIONS

PODICEPIDIDAE

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
On 08-05 1 ex on a roadside pool near Wa Qie, Tibetan plateau.

ARDEIDAE

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
On 09-05 a single bird between Roergai and Jiuzhaigou.
On 14-05 3 exx near Yangxian

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*
On 17-05 1 ex flyby between Chengdu and Wawu Shan.

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*
Observed in the lowlands.

Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus*
On 08-05 4 exx near Hongyuan
On 09-05 1 ex on transit between Roergai – Jiuzhaigou.
A total of 9 exx on 3 dates when travelling from Jiuzhaigou to Wanglang, Wanglang to Guanyuan and 5 exx. near Yangxian on 14-05.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
A total of 38 exx on 4 dates.

Crested Ibis *Nipponia nippon*
On 14-05 18 exx at Yangxian.
This species is considered *Endangered* by "Threatened Birds of the World".

CICONIIDAE

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*
On 07 May 4 exx near Hongyuan.

ANATIDAE

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*
Up to 50 exx daily on the Tibetan plateau. Hongyuan – Roergai.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*
A total of 18 exx on 3 dates on the Tibetan plateau.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*
On 14-05 1 ♀ near Yangxian.

Teal *Anas crecca*
On 08-05 3 exx on a roadside pool near Wa Qie.

Ferruginous Pochard *Aythya farina*
On 08-05 25 exx, including fine ♀♀ on a roadside pool near Wa Qie.
It is considered *Near-threatened* by BirdLife International.

Common Merganser *Mergus merganser*
On 07-05 2 exx and on 08-05 10 exx on the Tibetan plateau.

ACcipitridae

Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus*
On 14-05 2 exx near Jiuzhaigou.
On 16-05 we noticed 200 exx migrating at Qingchen Shan within 30 minutes.

Black-eared Kite *Milvus lineatus*
Up to 10 exx daily on the Tibetan plateau.

Lammergeyer *Gypaetus barbatus*
Single birds on 03 and 04-05 in the Balan Shan pass area.
On 11-05 1 ex Long Lake area, Jiuzhaigou N.P.

Himalayan Griffon Vulture *Gyps himalayensis*
A total of 18 exx on 3 dates in the Balan Shan area.
On 06-05 2 exx Mengbi Shan area.
On 07-05 10 exx near Hongyuan.
On 09-05 1 ex between Roergai – Jiuzhaigou.

**Eurasian Black Vulture** *Aegypius monachus*
On 03-05 2 exx in the Balan Shan area.

**Crested Goshawk** *Accipiter trivirgatus*
On 16-05 1 ex near Qingcheng Shan.

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*
A total of 5 on 5 dates exx. throughout

**Northern Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*
A total of 3 exx on 3 dates. Wuyipeng.

**Himalayan Buzzard** *Buteo burmanicus*
A total of 8 exx on 4 dates.

**Upland Buzzard** *Buteo hemilasius*
Single bird in the Wolong area.
A total of 3 exx on the Tibetan plateau.
Single birds at Jiuzhaigou N.P.

**Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos*
A total of 4 exx in the Jiuzhaigou area.

**Mountain Hawk Eagle** *Spizaetus nipalensis*
On 22-05 1 ex at Bifeng Xia.

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*
On 14-05 1 ex near Yangxian.

**Black Eagle** *Ictinaetus malayensis*
On 19-05 1 ex at Wawu Shan

**Crested Serpent Eagle** *Spilornis cheela*
On 22-05 1 ex Bifeng Xia.

**FALCONIDAE**

**Eurasian Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*
On 05-05 2 exx between Rilong and Mengbi Shan. Single birds on 08 and 09-05 on the Tibetan plateau.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*
On 07-05 1 ex near Hongyuan.
On 16-05 at least 2 migrating birds near Qingshen Shan.

**PHASIANIDAE**

**Severtzov’s Grouse (Chinese Grouse)** *Bonasa sewerzowi*
On 06-05 3 exx were seen in the forest along the trail down at km 29, Mengbi Shan.

**Snow Partridge** *Lerwa lerwa*
On 03-05 2 exx and on 04-05 6 exx in the Balan Shan area. Great views in the scope.

**Chestnut-throated Partridge (Verreaux’s Monal Partridge)** *Tetraophasis obscurus*
On 05-05 extremely close views of a pair at km 92 in the Balan Shan area.
On 06-05 heard at Mengbi Shan.
On 13-05 heard at Wanglang N.R.

**Tibetan Snowcock** *Tetraogallus tibetanus*
On 04-05 heard in the Balan Shan area.
On 05-05 great views of a pair foraging close to the road, just before the pass at Balan Shan. I still find it unbelievable how Jan Hein discovered the birds initially!

**Chinese Bamboo Partridge** *Bambusicola thoracica*
On 16 and 17-05 heard at Qingsheng Shan.
On 22-05 heard at Bifeng Xia.

**Blood Pheasant** *Ithagus cruentus*
On 03-04 heard near km 92, Balan Shan area.
On 05-05 2 exx and on 06-05 4 exx along the road at Mengbi Shan. Some great and close views.
**Temminck’s Tragopan** *Tragopan temminckii*
On 04-05 3 different ♀♀ were seen by Jan Hein at Wuyipeng. Frans and I saw a ♀ up at the plateau at Wawu Shan. The bird flew into a tree, close to the trail.

**Koklass Pheasant** *Pucrasia macrolopha*
On 03-05 a ♂ was observed next to the road at km 92 in the Balan Shan area. The bird was close but unfortunately it was also rather foggy. More birds were heard at this site. Also heard the next day.

**Chinese Monal** *Lophophorus huysii*
On 04-05 2 ♂♂ and on 05-05 2 ♂♂ and 1 ♀ at km 92 in the Balan Shan area. We got some great views in the scope. It is considered **Vulnerable** by “Threatened Birds of the World”.

**White-eared Pheasant** *Crossoptilon crossoptilon*
A total of 34 exx observed on 3 dates in the Balan Shan area. Best views were had at km 92.
On 06-05 heard at Mengbi Shan.

**Blue-eared Pheasant** *Crossoptilon auritum*
On 12-05 1 pair and on 13-05 2 pairs in the meadows, just behind the accommodation area at Wanglang N.R. Very good and close views.

**Common Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*
On 08-05 heard near Hongyuan. On 09-05 2 ♂♂ in the scrub near Jiuzhaigou. On 12-05 1 ex in the same area. On 11-05 1 ex Kezegou trail. On 14-05 1 ♂ near Yangxian. On 23-05 1 ♀ Bifeng Xia.

**Golden Pheasant** *Chrysolophus pictus*
On 01-05 3 exx heard at Sawan, Wolong. On 02-05 1 ♂ seen well after a combined effort. The golden head really sticks out in the forest, even at a distance. On 12-05 heard on the scrubby hillsides near Jiuzhaigou. On 21-05 1 ♀ at Bifeng Xia.

**Lady Amherst Pheasant** *Chrysolophus amherstiae*
Commonly heard at Wawu Shan. On 17-05 a ♂ along the road, close to On 18-05 great views from the car of a ♂, crossing the road near the bridge, Wawu Shan. On 20-05 another ♀ along the road.
On 21-05 when we left Wawu Shan in the early morning we observed 3♂♂ and 4 ♀♀ along the road.

**RALLIDAE**

**Eurasian Coot** *Fulica atra*
On 08-05 3 exx at a roadside pool near Wa Qie.

**Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*
On 08-05 a single bird at a roadside pool near Wa Qie. On 11-05 a single bird on a pond in Jiuzhaigou N.P.

**White-breasted Waterhen** *Anaurornis phoenicus*
Single birds on 01,03,05,12 and 14-05.

**GRUIDAE**

**Black-necked Crane** *Grus nigricollis*
On 07-05 7 exx near Hongyuan, Tibetan plateau. On 08-05 2 pairs near Roergai, Tibetan plateau.

**Crane spec.**
On 20-05 we heard the typical crane call at Wawu Shan and out of the mist 3 cranes flew by. I took some pictures but because of the mist it is still very difficult to determine which species it is.
GLAREOLIDAE
Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum*
On 14-05 1 ex at Yangxian.

CHARADRIIDAE
Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*
On 14-05 10 exx in the rice paddies at Yangxian.
Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
On 14-05 6 exx at Yangxian.
Long-billed Plover *Charadrius placidus*
On 14-05 2 pairs along the river, near Yangxian. Suspect that the species is breeding here.

SCOLOPACIDAE
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
On 14-05 1 ex near Yangxian.
Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*
On 08-05 2 exx at pool near Wa Qie.
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*
On 14-05 1 ex near Yangxian.
Common Redshank *Tringa tetanus*
Common on the Tibetan plateau.
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
On 08-05 4 exx at pool near Wa Qie.
On 14-05 5 exx at Yangxian.

LARIDAE
Brown-headed Gull *Larus brunnicephalus*
Single birds on 08 and 09-05 near Roergai.

STERNIDAE
White-winged Tern *Chlydonis leucoptera*
On 08-05 1 adult ex. at a pool near Wa Qie.

COLUMBIDAE
Snow Pigeon *Columba leuconota*
On 04-05 a large flock (30+) gave great views in flight at the Balan Shan pass.
On 05-05 2 exx observed on the ground in the same area.
Speckled Wood Pigeon *Columba hodgsonii*
On 12-05 a single bird near Jiuzhaigou.
On 17-05 a single bird at Wawu Shan.
Red Turtle Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica*
A single bird on 08-05 near Roergai.
Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis ssp.oriëntalis*
On 06-05 4 exx at Mengbi Shan and Maerkang.
On 15 and 16-05 2 to 5 exx at Qingcheng Shan.
On 23-05 1 ex Chengdu.
Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*
On 01-05 3 exx near Chengdu.
On 23-05 a few at Chengdu.
Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon *Treron sphenura*
On 20-05 3 exx at Wawu Shan – middle elevation.

CUCLIDAE
Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris*
On 16-05 at least 3 exx seen and more heard at Qingcheng Shan.
Whistling Hawk Cuckoo *Hierococcyx nisicolor*
On 15 and 16-05 heard at Qingcheng Shan

Large Hawk Cuckoo *Hierococcyx sparveroides*
Recorded on 11 dates and twice seen well.

Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus*
On 13-05 heard and 2 exx seen at Wanglang N.R.
Also heard at Bifeng Xia.

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*
Recorded on 8 dates.

Himalayan Cuckoo (Oriental Cuckoo) *Cuculus saturatus*
Recorded on 9 dates and twice seen.

Lesser Cuckoo *Cuculus poliocephalus*
On 15-05 1 ex taped in at Qingcheng Shan.
On 17 and 18-05 heard at Wawu Shan.

Common Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea*
Heard and seen at Qingcheng Shan.

STRIGIDAE

Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei*
On 02 and 04-05 heard at Wuyipeng.

CAPRIMULGIDAE

Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus jotaka*
On 22-05 1 ex. heard at Bifeng Xia.

APODIDAE

Himalayan Swiftlet *Collocalia brevirostris*
Recorded in small numbers on 2 dates at Wawu Shan.
Up to 20 exx daily at Bifeng Xia.

White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*
On 06-05 5 exx at Mengbi Shan.
On 20-05 3 exx at Wawu Shan.
On 21-05 5 exx at the entrance of Labahe N.R.

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*
Recorded on 12 dates.

ALCEDINIDAE

Black-capped Kingfisher *Halcyon pileata*
On 07-05 1 ex near Maerkang.
A single birds on 10 and 11-05 in Jiuzhaigou N.P.

Great Crested Kingfisher
On 13-05 1 ex between Wanglang and Guangyuan.
On 14-05 a single bird at Yangxian.
On 15-05 4 exx along the road near Guangyuan.

PICIFORMES

Great Barbet *Megalaima virens*
On 19-05 1 ex in the scope at Wawu Shan.
On 20-05 heard Wawu Shan.

UPUPIDAE

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*
On 01-05 1 ex observed during a roadside stop towards Wolong.
On 08-05 heard near Hongyuan.
PICIDAE
Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus maritus*
On 04-05 1 ex heard at Wuyipeng.
On 11-05 1 ex along the Kezegou trail, Jiuzhaigou N.P.
Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*
A total of 3 birds on 2 dates at Jiuzhaigou N.P.
Darjeeling Woodpecker *Dendrocopos darjellensis*
On 19-05 1 ex seen and another heard at Wawu Shan.
White-backed Woodpecker *Dendrocopos leucotos*
On 04-05 1 pair observed at Wuyipeng.
On 07-05 1 ex on a forested pass between Maerkang and Hongyuan.
On 10-05 1 ex. at Jiuzhaigou N.P. (Jos only)
Rufous-bellied Woodpecker *Dendrocopos hyperythrus*
On 05-05 1 ex near Rilong.
On 07-05 1 ex near Maerkang.
Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus ssp.guerini*
Observed at Wuyipeng, near Maerkang and Qingcheng Shan.
Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*
On 17-05 1 ex Wawu Shan.

ALAUDIDAE
Tibetan Lark *Melanocorypha maxi*
On 08-05 4 exx between Hongyuan and Roergai.
Great views of a displaying bird near Roergai.
On 09-05 1 ex. near Roergai in the snow.
Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula*
Common on the Tibetan plateau.
Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris ssp.khamensis*
Up to 10 exx daily on the Tibetan plateau.

HIRUNDINIDAE
Pale Martin *Riparia diluta*
On 22-05 4 exx near Bifeng Xia.
Eurasian Crag Martin *Hirundo rupestris*
On 05-05 5 exx between Wolong and Maerkang.
On 09-05 4 exx between Roergai and Jiuzhaigou.
On 11-05 5 exx jiuzhaigou N.P.
On 14-05 small numbers at Yangxian.
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
Observed on 8 dates.
Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*
Single birds in the Hongyuan area.
Single birds on transit on 13 and 14-05.
Up to 10 exx between Chengdu and Wawu Shan on 17-05.
Daily 10 at Bifeng Xia.
Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus*
Widespread and recorded on 14 dates.

MOTACILLIDAE
Blyth's Pipit *Anthus godlewski*
On 08-05 1 ex heard and seen near Hongyuan.
Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*
On 03-05 1 ex Wolong.
On 07-05 2 exx near Maerkang.
A single bird at Jiuzhaigou N.P. and at Wanglang N.R.
Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus*
Common at Wolong and Balan Shan Pass area.
Also observed at Jiuzhaigou N.P. and Wanglang N.R.

**Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola ssp.citreola*
On 07-05 at a marshy area at the beginning of the Tibetan plateau.
On 12 and 13-05 1 pair near the accommodation area of Wanglang N.R.
On 14-05 3 exx at Yangxian

**Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola ssp.calcarata*
On 08-05 1 ♂ between Hongyuan and Roergai.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*
Observed on 15 dates.

**Himalayan Wagtail** *Motacilla (alba)alboides*
Commonly encountered and observed on 16 dates.

**Amur Wagtail** *Motacilla (alba) leucopsis*
On 13-05 1 ex at Wanglang N.R.
On 14-05 20 exx at Yangxian

**CAMPEPHAGIDAE**

**Long-tailed Minivet** *Pericrocotus ethologus*
Regularly observed in the higher altitude forested areas.
Recorded on 13 dates.

**Swinhoe’s Minivet** *Pericrocotus cantonensis*
On 15-05 1 ex briefly seen in the garden of our hotel at Qingcheng Shan.

**PYCNONOTIDAE**

**Collared Finchbill** *Spizixos semitorques*
On 01-05 2 exx near Wolong.
A total of 5 exx on 2 dates at Qingcheng Shan.
A total of 8 exx on 2 dates at Bifeng Xia.

**Brown-breasted Bulbul** *Pycnonotus xanthorrhous*
On 02-05 1 ex between Chengdu-Wolong.
On 12-05 2 exx on scrubby hillside near Jiuzhaigou.
On 22-05 2 exx at Bifeng Xia.

**Chinese Bulbul (Light-vented Bulbul)** *Pycnonotus sinensis*
Recorded in small numbers on 8 dates.

**Mountain Bulbul** *Hypsipetes mclellandii*
On 16-05 1 ex at Qingcheng Shan.

**Black Bulbul** *Hypsipetes leucocephalus ssp.leucothorax*
On 02-05 5 exx between Chengdu – Wolong.
Daily up to 10 exx at Qingchen Shan and Bifeng Xia.

**CINCLIDAE**

**White-throated Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*
Single birds on 07-05 near Maerkang during a roadside stop and on 10-05 at Pearl Shoals in Jiuzhaigou N.P.

**Brown Dipper** *Cinclus pallasi*
A total of 3 exx. on 2 dates at Jiuzhaigou and also recorded at Bifenc Xia.

**TROGLODYTIDAE**

**Winter Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes ssp.szetschuanus*
On 06-05 6 exx at Mengbi Shan.
On 10 and 11-05 common at Jiuzhaigou

**PRUNELLIDAE**

**Maroon-backed Accentor** *Prunella immaculata*
On 6-05 2 exx at Mengbi Shan.
On 07-05 1 ex in forest between Maerkang and Hongyuan.
A total of 4 exx on 2 dates at Jiuzhaigou N.P.
**Rufous-breasted Accentor** *Prunella strophiata*
On 03-05 1 ex Wolong.
On 06-05 10+ at Mengbi Shan.
On 07-05 3 exx in forest between Maerkang and Hongyuan.
On 10-05 a single bird at Jiuzhaigou.
A total of 6 exx on 2 dates at Wawu Shan.

**Alpine Accentor** *Prunella collaris*
Up to 20 exx daily in the Balan Shan area.

**TURDIDAE**

**Firethroat** *Luscinia pectardens*
On 02-05 great views of a very vocal ♂ on the trail up to Wuyipeng.
On 04-05 twice a ♀ seen at Wuyipeng.

**Indian Blue Robin** *Luscinia brunnea*
Heard in the Wolong area and on 01-05 1 ex seen.
On 04-05 1 ex at Wuyipeng.
Heard and seen at Mengbi Shan.
Up to 4 exx daily at Jiuzhaigou N.P.
Also a single bird at Wanglang N.R.

**Himalayan Red-flanked Bluetail** *Tarsiger rufilatus*
Up to 4 exx at Mengbi Shan and daily at Jiuzhaigou N.P.
Also a single bird lower Balan Shan.

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros ssp.rufiventris*
On 03-05 2 exx Balan Shan area.
Common on the Tibetan plateau between Hongyuan and Roergai.

**Hodgson’s Redstart** *Phoenicurus hodgsoni*
On 07-05 2 ♀ ♀ in valley near Hongyuan.
On 09-05 2 ♀ ♀ near Roergai.

**Blue-fronted Redstart** *Phoenicurus frontalis*
Common at Balan Shan and Mengbi Shan.
On 10-05 2 exx Jiuzhaigou N.P.

**White-throated Redstart** *Phoenicurus schisticeps*
The first ex of this beautiful Redstart was seen in the lower part of Balan Shan on 05-05 when driving down to Rilong.
On 06-05 8 exx at Mengbi Shan.
On 07-05 3 exx. between Maerkang and Hongyuan.

**Daurian Redstart** *Phoenicurus auroreus*
Twice a single bird at Wolong.
On 11-05 2 exx. at Long Lake, Jiuzhaigou N.P.
On 13-05 1 ex. at Wanglang N.R.

**Plumbeous Redstart** *Rhyacornis fuliginosus*
Common along streams. Recorded on 8 dates.

**White-bellied Redstart** *Hodgsoniusphaenicuroides*
On 18-05 1 pair seen very well at the rubbish dump behind the restaurant, up at the plateau at Wawu Shan.

**White-tailed Robin** *Cinclidium leucurum*
Single ♀ ♀ seen on 2 dates up at the plateau, Wawu Shan.

**White-capped Redstart** *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*
Common throughout. Recorded on 14 dates.

**Grandala** *Grandala coelicolor*
On 03-05 2 exx, on 04-05 20 exx and on 05-05 1 ♀ in the Balan Shan area.
On 10-05 10 exx Primeval Forest, Jiuzhaigou N.P.

**Siberian Stonechat** *Saxicola maura*
On 08-05 10+ between Hongyuan and Roergai, Tibetan plateau.

**Grey Bushchat** *Saxicola ferrea*
On 23-05 1 ex. at Bifeng Xia.
Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*
On 09-05 1 ♀ near Jiuzhaigou. (scrubby hillside)
During our visit to Wanglang N.R. on 12 and 13-05 we observed 1 pair.

Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush *Monticola rufiventris*
On 13-05 1 ♀ at Wanglang N.R.

Blue Whistling Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus*
On 07-05 a single birds on transit near Maerkang.
On 13-05 1 ex at wangling N.R.
Common at Wawu Shan and Bifeng Xia.

Long-tailed Thrush *Zoothera dixoni*
Several birds heard singing at Mengbi Shan on 06-05 and 1 bird nicely scoped.
On 10-05 1 ex at jiuzhaigou N.P.

Chinese Blackbird *Turdus mandarinus*
Single birds at Chengdu, Wolong, Jiuzhaigou and Yangxian.

Chestnut Thrush *Turdus rubrocanus*
This thrush was observed in the Wolong area, near Maerkang and especially common at Jiuzhaigou. Also a few at Wanglang N.R.

Kessler’s Thrush *Turdus kessleri*
Observed in the Balan Shan area, Mengbi Shan and on the Tibetan plateau.
A total of 38 exx on 7 dates.

Little Forktail *Enicurus scouleri*
On 17-05 1 ex Wawu Shan,middle elevation.
On 22-05 3 exx at Bifeng Xia.

Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus*
On 22-05 1 ex at Bifeng Xia.

White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus leschenaultia*
On 21-05 1 ex at Bifeng Xia.

Spotted Bush-Warbler *Bradypterus thoracicus*
On 19-05 twice heard up on the plateau of Wawu Shan. One bird taped in.

Brown Bush-Warbler *Bradypterus luteoventris*
On 19-05 1 ex heard and seen (less than 1 metre) up on the plateau of Wawu Shan.

Russet Bush-Warbler *Bradypterus mandelli*
On 19-05 1 ex heard at middle elevation, Wawu Shan.

Alstrom’s Warbler (Plain-tailed Warbler) *Seicercus soror*
On 17-05 1 ex entrance of Wawu Shan.
On 22 and 23-05 up to 4 exx at Bifeng Xia.

Marten’s Warbler (Emei Spectacled Warbler) *Seicercus omeiensis*
On 02 and 04-05 2 exx at Wuyipeng.
On 20-05 3 exx middle elevation at Wawu Shan.

Bianchi’s Warbler *Seicercus valentine*
Observed at higher elevations than previous species.
At Wuyipeng/Wolong area, Jiuzhaigou N.P. Wanglang N.R. and up at the plateau of Wawu Shan.

**Chestnut-crowned Warbler** *Seicercus castaneiceps ssp.sinensis*
Single birds on 2 dates at Qingcheng Shan.
On 20-05 a single bird at Wawu Shan.

**Rufous-faced Warbler** *Abroscopus albogularis ssp.fulvifacies*
Up to 7 exx daily at Qingcheng Shan.

**Sulphur-breasted Warbler** *Phylloscopus ricketti*
Single birds seen on 2 dates at Qingcheng Shan. More birds were heard. Also 6 exx on 2 dates at Bifeng Xia.

**Klossi’s Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus ogilviegranti ssp.disturbans*
On 03 and 04-05 2 exx in the Wolong area.
On 04-05 1 ex at Wuyipeng
A total of 3 exx on 2 dates at Wawu Shan.

**Claudia’s Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus claudiae*
Recorded on 8 dates. Not uncommon.
Observed in the Wuyipeng/Wolong area, on transit near Maerkang, Jiuzhaigou N.P., and Wawu Shan.

**Emei Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus emeiensis*
We heard the species on 17-05 when entering Wawu Shan near the third bridge (km9-10). On 20-05 we observed at least 3 different birds in the same area.

**Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides*
On 02 and 04-05 3 exx Wuyipeng.
On 20-05 2 exx Wawu Shan.

**Large-billed Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus magnirostris*
Commonly recorded in forests, its distinctive song was heard on 11 dates. A few birds were seen well.

**Arctic Warbler** *Phylloscopus borealis*
On 15-05 1 ex identified Qingcheng Shan.
On 20-05 1 ex at Wawu Shan.

**Buff-barred Warbler** *Phylloscopus pulcher*
Recorded on 10 dates. High altitude areas of Wolong, Mengbi Shan, Jiuzhaigou and Wawu Shan.

**Sichuan Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus forresti*
Observed at Wuyipeng (rather common), Maerkang area, Jiuzhaigou N.P., Wanglang N.R. and a few up at the plateau at Wawu Shan.

**Chinese Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus yunnanensis*
Only identified with certainty at Jiuzhaigou N.P. A total of 19 exx on 4 dates with more heard.

**Hume’s Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus humei ssp.mandellii*
Single birds on 06-05 at Mengbi Shan and on 07-05 in forest near Maerkang.
A total of 7 exx on 4 dates at Jiuzhaigou N.P.

**Yellow-streaked Warbler** *Phylloscopus armandii*
On 03-05 3 exx at Wolong.
On 06-05 3 exx at Mengbi Shan.
On 07-05 3 exx in forest near Maerkang.
Small numbers recorded on 3 dates in the Jiuzhaigou area.

**Dusky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatus*
On 12-05 1 ex on the scrubby hill, outside Jiuzhaigou. Heard and seen.

**West Chinese Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus occisinensis*
On 02-05 2 exx at Wuyipeng.
On 05-05 5 exx between Balan Shan and Rilong.
On 06-05 6 exx Mengbi Shan.
This is a recent split from **Tickell’s Leaf-Warbler**

**Buff-throated Warbler** *Phylloscopus subaffinis*
On 19 and 20-05 a pair at Wawu Shan.
Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*
Observed at Mengbi Shan, forest near Maerkang and Jiuzhaigou on 2 dates.

**Severtzov’s Tit-Warbler (White-browed Tit-Warbler)** *Leptopoecile sophiae ssp.obscura*
On 07-05 2 exx in valley near Hongyuan.
On 08-05 1 ♂ between Hongyuan and Roergai.

**Crested Tit-Warbler *Leptopoecile elegans***
On 06-05 1 ♂ at Mengbi Shan (km 27).
We were lucky as it turned out that this was our only observation of this species.

**Muscicapidae**

**Rufous-bellied Niltava *Niltava sundara***
On 04-05 1 pair at Wuyipeng.
On 18-05 2 ♀♀ at the start of the cable car, Wawu Shan.

**Chinese Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis glaucicomans***
On 02-05 1 ex Wuyipeng.
On 11-05 1 ♂ along the Kezegou trail, Jiuzhaigou N.P.
On 22-05 at least 3 singing ♀♀

**Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassina***
On 02-05 2 exx and on 04-05 1 ex Wuyipeng.
Daily a few at Wawu Shan.

**Ferruginous Flycatcher *Muscicapa ferruginea***
On 15-05 1 ex at Qingcheng Shan.

**Brown-breasted Flycatcher *Muscicapa muttui***
On 22 and 23-05 2 and 3 exx at Bifeng Xia.

**Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa daurica***
On 22-05 1 ex at the entrance of Bifeng Xia

**Taiga Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla***
Single birds on 01-05 at Wolong and on 02-05 at Wuyipeng.
On 09-05 1 ex scrubby hill at Jiuzhaigou.

**Slaty-backed Flycatcher *Ficedula Hodgsonii***
On 07-05 2 singing ♀♀ in forest near Maerkang.
A few daily at Jiuzhaigou.
8 exx on 2 dates at Wanglang N.R.

**Rufous-gorgetted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophiata***
On 01-05 1 ex at Wolong.
On 02-05 3 exx and on 04-05 6 exx at Wuyipeng.
On 11-05 2 exx at Jiuzhaigou.
On 13-05 1 ex at Wanglang N.R.

**Grey-headed Flycatcher *Culicapa ceylonensis***
Observed at Wuyipeng, Jiuzhaigou, Wanglang N.R. Wawu Shan and Bifeng Xia.

**Monarchidae**

**Asian Paradise Flycatcher *Tersiphone paradise***
On 15-05 1 ex in the garden of our hotel at Qingcheng Shan.

**Timidae**

**Black-streaked Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus gravivox***
On 22-05 1 ex and on 22-05 2 exx along the entrance road of Bifeng Xia.

**Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis***
On 16-05 2 exx at Qingcheng Shan.
On 17-05 2 exx and on 20-05 1 ex at Wawu Shan.
On 23-05 3 exx at Bifeng Xia.

**Scaly-breasted Wren-Babbler *Pnoepyga albiventer***
On 04-05 3 exx Wuyipeng. Some great views.

**Pygmy Wren-Babbler *Pnoepyga pusilla***
On 02-05 heard and seen at Wuyipeng and the next day heard at lower elevation.
Wolong.
Also heard on 04-05 at Wuyipeng.
On 10-05 heard at Jiuzhaigou N.P.
Daily heard at Bifeng Xia and one bird taped out which great and close views.

**Rufous-capped Babbler** *Stachyris ruficeps*
On 23-05 2 exx at Bifeng Xia.

**Great Parrotbill** *Conostoma oemodium*
On 04-05 1 singing bird observed at Wuyipeng.
On 18-05 1 pair observed up on the plateau of Wawu Shan. Later Robby showed us a bird on the nest, close to the trail.
On 19-05 another pair a few km (bamboo patch/overgrown vegetable gardens) down from along the entrance road. Also heard the next day.

**Three-toed Parrotbill** *Paradoxornis paradoxus*
On 19-05 a single bird gave brief views up on the plateau of Wawu Shan.

**Ashy-throated Parrotbill** *Paradoxornis alphonsianus*
Daily and commonly observed at Bifeng Xia.
On 23-05 a few in Chengdu parc.

**Vinous-throated Parrotbill** *Paradoxornis webbianus*
Common on 15 and 16-05 (up to 30 exx daily) at Qingcheng Shan.

**Grey-hooded Parrotbill** *Paradoxornis zappeyi*
On 19-05 finally great views of a pair in the bamboo fields, up on the plateau of Wawu Shan. We had to climb onto a rubbish bin though to get the best views.

It is considered **Vulnerable** by "Threatened Bird of the World".

**Fulvous Parrotbill** *Paradoxornis fulvifrons*
On both visits to the plateau of Wawu Shan we observed a pair.

**Grey-headed Parrotbill** *Paradoxornis gularis*
On 20-05 1 pair near km 15. along the entrance road of Wawu Shan.

**Chinese Babax** *Babax lanceolatus*
On 02 and 04-05 1 ex near the village of , at the start of the trail up to Wuyipeng.
On 17-05 1 ex at the third bridge (km 9) at Wawu Shan. Breeding suspected.
On 20-05 5 exx in the same general area.

**Pere David’s Laughingthrush (Plain Laughingthrush)** *Garrulax davidi*
A total of 17 exx on 3 dates in the Hongyuan – Roergai area, Tibetan plateau.

**Sukatschev’s Laughingthrush (Snowy-cheeked L.thrush)** *Garrulax sukatschewi*
In the early morning of 11-05 Frans found a pair skulking with the numerous Elliot’s Laughingthrushes at the parking lot of Long Lake, Jiuzhaigou N.P.
It is considered **Vulnerable** by "Threatened Bird of the World".

**Barred Laughingthrush** *Garrulax lunulatus*
On both visits to Wuyipeng a pair was observed.

**Giant Laughingthrush** *Garrulax maximus*
On 03-05 great views of 2 exx near the White Obelisk, Wolong.
On 05-05 at least 3 exx seen at Mengbi Shan.
On 06-05 4 exx seen and more heard at Mengbi Shan.

**Spotted Laughingthrush** *Garrulax ocellatus*
On 02-05 2 exx at Wuyipeng.
On 19-05 1 ex gave great views at Wawu Shan.

**White-browed Laughingthrush** *Garrulax sannio*
On 01-05 2 exx at the edge of Chengdu.
A total of 15 exx on 2 dates at Qingcheng Shan.
A total of 9 exx on 2 dates at Bifeng Xia.

**Elliot’s Laughingthrush** *Garrulax elliotii*
Common throughout.
Recorded on 15 dates.

**Black-faced Laughingthrush** *Garrulax affinis*
On 18-05 1 ex up on the plateau of Wawu Shan.

**Red-winged Laughingthrush** *Garrulax formosus*
Heard on 2 dates at Wawu Shan and finally 2 single birds seen on 20-05.
Buffy Laughingthush *Garrulax berthemyi*
On 20-05 2+2 exx seen at Wawu Shan.

**Hwamei** *Garrulax canorus*
On 23-05 a small group of 5 exx at Bifeng Xia.

**Emei Shan Liocichla** *Liocichla omeiensis*
A total of 12 exx on 2 dates seen at Wawu Shan.
It is considered **Vulnerable** by Threatened Birds of the World”

**Red-billed Leiothrix** *Leiothrix lutea*
Common at Wawu Shan and Bifeng Xia.

**Red-tailed Minla** *Minla ignotincta*
On 17-05 1 ex at Wawu Shan.

**Green Shrike-Babbler** *Pteruthius xanthochlorus ssp.pallidus*
On 04-05 1 ex at Wuyipeng.

**White-browed Shrike-Babbler** *Pteruthius flaviscapillus ssp.validirostris*
On 04-05 1 singing bird at Wuyipeng.

**Golden-breasted Fulvetta** *Alcippe chrysotis*
Observed during both visits to Wuyipeng (8+ exx.)

**Grey-hooded Fulvetta** *Alcippe cinereiceps*
Observed on both visits to Wuyipeng (up to 10 exx.)
A total of 15 exx on 3 dates at Wawu Shan.
NB: split from Streak-throated Fulvetta

**Grey-cheeked Fulvetta** *Alcippe morrisonia*
A total of 9 exx on 2 dates at Qingcheng Shan
Up to 10 exx daily at Bifeng Xia.

**Stripe-throated Yuhina** *Yuhina gularis*
On 02-05 20+ at Wuyipeng.

**White-collared Yuhina** *Yuhina diademata*
On 02-05 8 exx and 04-05 1 ex at Wuyipeng.
On 13-05 3 exx at Wanglang N.R.
A total of 16 exx on 3 dates at Wawu Shan.

**Black-chinned Yuhina** *Yuhina nigrimenta*
On 21-05 a large group at the entrance of Wawu Shan.
A total of 14 exx on 2 dates at Bifeng Xia.

**AEGITHALIDAE**

**Sooty Tit** *Aegithalos fuliginosus*
On 02-05 2 exx and on 04-05 3 exx at the station of Wuyipeng.
On 11-05 2 exx along the Kezegou trail, Jiuzhaigou N.P.
On 12-05 4 exx at Wanglang N.R.

**Black-throated Tit** *Aegithalos concinnus*
On 01-05 3 exx Wolong.
On 15-05 common in the gardens of our hotel in Qingcheng Shan
On 22-05 2 exx at Bifeng Xia.

**PARIDAE**

**Yellow-browed Tit** *Sylviparus modestus*
On 02-05 4 exx and on 04-05 5 exx at Wuyipeng.
On 20-05 1 ex Wawu Shan.

**White-browed Tit** *Parus superciliosus*
On 07-05 brief, but good views of 1 ex in a nice scrubby valley near Hongyuan.

**Sichuan Tit** *Parus weigoldicus*
On 07-05 6 exx between near Maerkang.

**Grey-crested Tit** *Parus dichrous*
Observed at Wuyipeng, Mengbi Shan, near Maerkang and Jiuzhaigou.

**Pere David’s Tit (Rusty-breasted Tit)** *Parus davidi*
On 02-05 8 exx and on 04-05 4 exx at Wuyipeng.
A total of 12 exx on 2 dates at Jiuzhaigou N.P.
Yellow-bellied Tit *Parus venustulus*
Observed on 10 dates: Wolong, Jiuzhaigou, Qingcheng Shan, Wawu Shan and Bifeng Xia.

Rufous-vented Tit *Parus rubiventris*
Observed on 10 dates: Wolong, Mengbi Shan, Jiuzhaigou and Wawu Shan.

Himalayan Coal Tit *Parus ater ssp.aemodius*
On 02 and 04-05 10+ at Wuyipeng.
Daily small numbers at Jiuzhaigou N.P. and Wawu Shan.

Japanese Tit *Parus minor*
Observed on 9 dates throughout in small numbers.

Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus*
On 02-05 2 exx and on 04-05 5 exx at Wuyipeng.
A total of 6 exx on 3 dates at Jiuzhaigou N.P.
A few at Wawu Shan on 2 dates.
On 22-05 2 exx at Bifeng Xia.

SITTIDAE

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*
On 02-05 5 exx at Wuyipeng.
On 11-05 1 ex along the Kezegou trail, Jiuzhaigou N.P.

Chestnut-vented Nuthatch *Sitta nagaensis*
On 04-05 1 ex at Wuyipeng.

CERTHIIDAE

Sichuan Treecreeper *Certhia tianquanensis*
On 04-05 1 singing ex seen at Wuyipeng. Sound recorded.
At the time we thought it was a new location for this species but it turned out that Frank Rheindt had also observed it at Wuyipeng.
On 18-05 2 exx and on 19-05 1 ex up on the plateau of Wawu Shan.

Bar-tailed Treecreeper *Certhia himalayana*
On 11-05 1 ex seen between Long lake and Zechawa village, Jiuzhaigou N.P.

Hodgson’s Treecreeper *Certhia hodgsoni*
On 03-05 1 ex and on 05-05 3 exx Wolong.
On 04-05 1 ex at Wuyioeng.
On 06-05 5 exx at Mengbi Shan.
On 10-05 1 ex Swan Lake area, Jiuzhaigou N.P.
On 18-05 1 ex observed up on the plateau of Wawu Shan.

REMIZIDAE

Fire-capped Tit *Cephalopyrus flammiceps ssp.olivaceus*
On 02-05 2 exx. at Wuyipeng.

NECTARINIDAE

Gould’s Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae*
On 02-05 6 exx at Wuyipeng.
On 17 and 20-05 1 ♂ at Wawu Shan.

ZOSTEROPIDAE

Chestnut-flanked White-eye *Zosterops erythropleurus*
Single birds seen at Wawu Shan on 18-05 and Bifeng Xia on 21-05.

Japanese White-eye *Zosterops japonicus*
On 01-05 2 exx Wolong.
On 11-05 a single bird at Long lake, Jiuzhaigou N.P.
A total of 7 ex. on 2 dates at Qingcheng Shan.

ORIOLIDAE

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*
On 14-05 1 ♂ at YangXian.
LANIIDAE
Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*
Single birds seen on 8 dates.
Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus*
Common from Maerkang, Jiuzhaigou to Wanglang N.R. A total of 46 exx. on 7 dates. Single birds at Wawu Shan and Bifeng Xia.

DICRURIDAE
Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*
Recorded on 8 dates. Mostly single birds on transit. Also a few near Hongyuan.
Hair-crested Drongo (Spangled Drongo) *Dicrurus hottentottus ssp.brevirostris*
On 16-05 3 exx Qingcheng Shan.
On 20-05 1 ex Wawu Shan.
On 23-05 3 exx Bifeng Xia.

CORVIDAE
Chinese Jay *Garrulus glandarius ssp.sinensis*
On 14 and 15-05 a few from the car, while on transit.
A few daily at Wawu Shan.
On 22-05 1 ex at Bifeng Xia.
Sichuan Jay *Perisoreus internigrans*
On 06-05 6 exx upper part (km 27 – 29) of Mengbi Shan.
Red-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*
On 02-05 2 exx and 04-05 1 ex at Wuyipeng.
On 12-05 1 ex and on 13-05 4 exx accommodation area, Wanglang N.R.
On 14-05 1 ex Yangxian.
On 15-05 10 exx Qingcheng Shan.
A total of 21 exx on 4 dates at Wawu Shan.
On 23-05 1 ex at Bifeng Xia.
Grey Treepie *Dendrocitta formosae*
On 20-05 2 exx lower elevation, Wawu Shan.
On 22-05 4 exx Bifeng Xia.
Azure-winged Magpie *Cyanopica cyanus*
On 08-05 10 exx between Hongyuan and Roergai, Tibetan plateau.
Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica ssp.bottanensis*
On 08 and 09-05 4 exx Hongyuan and Roergai area.
Hume’s Groundpecker *Pseudopodoces humilis*
On 08-05 20+ between Hongyuan and Roergai, Tibetan plateau.
Spotted Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes ssp.macella*
On 02-05 3 exx and on 04-05 1 ex Wuyipeng.
Alpine Chough (yellow-billed Chough) *Pyrrhocorax graculus ssp.digitatus*
A total of 8 exx on 2 dates in the Balan Shan area.
Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax ssp.himalayanus*
On 04-05 10 exx. in the Balan Shan area.
Daurian Jackdaw *Corvus dauricus*
On 09-05 2 exx just outside Roergai.
This species was high on my list as I missed in The Netherlands.
Oriental Crow *Corvus orientalis*
A total of 8 exx on 2 dates near Hongyuan and Roergai.
Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*
Observed on 12 dates.
Common Raven *Corvus corax*
On 08 and 09-05 2 exx near Hongyuan and Roergai.
On 10-05 1 ex. at Primeval Forest, Jiuzhaigou.
STURNIDAE

Crested Mynah *Acridotheres cristatellus*
On 15 and 17-05 commonly observed along the road.
Guangyan – Chengdu and Chengdu – Wawu Shan
Also on 23-05 between Bifeng Xia – Chengdu.

Red-billed Starling *Sturnus sericeus*
On 14-05 10 exx during a stop between Guangyan – Yangxian and along the road.
On 15-05 5 exx between Guangyan – Chengdu.

White-cheeked Starling *Sturnus cineraceus*
On 12 and 13-05 3 exx accommodation area, Wanglang N.R.

**Tibetan Snowfinch** *Montifringilla adamsi*
On 08-05 2 exx near Roergai.

PASERIDAE

Russet Sparrow *Passer rutilans*
On 12-05 3 exx scrubby hillside, Jiuzhaigou.
On 13-05 2 exx Wanglang N.R.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*
Recorded on 5 dates but then common.
On 01-05 4 exx between Chengdu – Wolong.
On 08-05 common Hongyuan – Roergai.
Common around Guangyan and Yangxian and in between.
On 16-05 4 exx Qingcheng Shan.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*
Observed on 6 dates.

Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia ssp.breviristris*
On 08-05 a small colony (10 exx) near Roergai.

FRINGILLIDAE

Grey-capped Greenfinch *Carduelis sinica*
On 01-05 1 ex between Chengdu – Wolong.
On 14 and 15-05 3 times 2 exx on transit along the road, during road stops.
A total of 7 exx. on 2 dates around our hotel at Bifeng Xia.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris ssp.miniakensis*
On 08 and 09-05 common on the Tibetan plateau.

Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*
On 04-05 2 exx at Wuyipeng.
On 10-05 4 exx at the primeval forest, Jiuzhaigou N.P.

Plain Mountain Finch *Leucosticte nemoricola*
Rather scarce. Only 3 exx seen on 2 dates in the Balan Shan area.

Brandt’s Mountain Finch *Leucosticte brandti*
A total of 62 exx on 3 dates near the Balan Shan pass.

Chinese Beautiful Rosefinch *Carpodacus davidianus*
On 07-05 1 ♂ near Maerkang was our only observation.

Pink-rumped Rosefinch *Carpodacus eos*
On 06-05 20+ at Mengbi Shan.
On 07-05 8 exx near Maerkang.

Vinaceous Rosefinch *Carpodacus vinaceus*
On 10-05 2 exx near the parking lot of Primeval Forest, Jiuzhaigou N.P.
On 18-05 4 exx including 2 beautiful ♀♀ near the start of the cable car, Wawu Shan.

Three-banded Rosefinch *Carpodacus trifasciatus*
On 10-05 1 ♂ near the parking lot of Primeval Forest, Jiuzhaigou N.P.

Chinese White-browed Rosefinch *Carpodacus dubius*
Single birds on 03, 04 and 05-05 Balan Shan area.
On 06-05 30+ at Mengbi Shan.
On 07-05 10+ near Maerkang.
Sichuan May 2010

Streaked Rosefinch *Carpodacus rubicilloides*
On 05-05 1 pair at Balan Shan pass.

Red-breasted Rosefinch *Carpodacus puniceus*
On 04-05 2 ♂ + 1 ♀ at the Balan Shan pass.

Grey-headed Bullfinch *Pyrrhula erythaca*
On 01-05 heard near Wolong.
On 04-05 1 ex at Wuyipeng.
On 10-05 8 exx Jiuzhaigou N.P. (Swan lake area)
On 12-05 and 13-05 5+6 exx at Wanglang N.R.

Collared Grosbeak *Mycerobas affinis*
On 10-05 6 exx near parking lot of Primaeval Forest, Jiuzhaigou N.P.

White-winged Grosbeak *Mycerobas carnipes*
A total of 5 exx on 3 dates in the Balan Shan area.
On 06-05 10+ at Mengbi Shan.
On 07-05 1 ex near Maerkang.
On 11-05 heard along the Kezegou Trail, Jiuzhaigou N.P.

Yellow-billed Grosbeak *Eophona migratoria*
On 23-05 2 exx in park Chengdu. Just opposite/near our hostel (Holly’s hostel)

EMBERIZIDAE

Slaty Bunting *Latoucheornis siemsseni*
On 01-05 1 vocal ♂ flew in and gave brief views at Sawan, Wolong.

Meadow Bunting *Emberiza cioides*
On 03-05 1 ex near km 92, Balan Shan area.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*
On 07-05 1 ex near Hongyuan.
On 10-05 1 ex Long lake, Jiuzhaigou.
On 13-05 2 exx at Wanglang N.R.

Godlewski’s Bunting *Emberiza godlewskii*
On 08 1 ♂ on scrubby hillside outside Hongyuan.
On 09-05 1 ♂ near Roergai.

Yellow-throated Bunting *Emberiza elegans*
On 11-05 1 ♂ near Long lake, Jiuzhaigou N.P.

A total of 290 species observed