

SE Tibet & Lhasa, 13-30 Apr 2010.

An at-a-glance list of 219 spp of birds & nine spp of mammals recorded.

By Jesper Hornskov @ *ALL RIGHTS RESERVED*

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Please note that the following list is best considered a work in progress. It should not be quoted without consulting the author.

This brief write-up covers the birds & mammals noted by H Grastveit, L Lander, K-L Nilsson, D Rehn, A Sun & myself on a rare visit to Lhasa & SE Tibet in April 2010.

Thank you all for making this trip so enjoyable!

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Enquiries concerning **Oriental Bird Club's Fundraiser** trips can be made to Michael Edgecombe, OBC's Promotion Officer, at [mail\(at\)orientalbirdclub.org](mailto:mail(at)orientalbirdclub.org) or directly to this author.

Kindly note that trips covering 'Tibet Autonomous Region' (= 'Xizang') are **on request only!**

Following a couple of inquiries I have come to feel that perhaps I ought to explain why SE Tibet, with its LORD DERBY'S PARAKEET & LUDLOW'S FULVETTA, and the area around Lhasa, with amongst others ELWE'S EARED PHEASANT, GIANT BABAX & PRINCE HENRI'S LAUGHINGTHRUSH, are not part of the itinerary on Oriental Bird Club's Fundraiser trips.

That these areas are not worth visiting is certainly NOT the reason! Because they are, as readers of the following write-up will realize.

Visitors to the deep valleys of SE Tibet – botanist Kingdon Ward's "River Gorge Country", with a flora "incomparably richer than those of the other regions of Tibet combined": thick forest growing where the monsoon moisture penetrates the Himalayas, and below the eternal snows "an unparalleled development of alpine plants", with one pass being dubbed "Rhododendron Fairlyland" by the early explorer – have to factor in that from late May on there's a grave risk of torrential rains: the sort of rain that not only makes birdwatching utterly impossible but also make landslides highly likely. Sections of the road between Bomi and Bayi are notorious for landslides that cause all traffic (incl the must-have four-wheel drive Landcruisers) to be delayed for up to several days.

As the highest mountains of NE Tibet – China's Qinghai province, with e.g **TIBETAN SANDGROUSE** *Syrrhaptes thibetana*, **KOZLOV'S BABAX** *Babax koslowi*, **PRZEVALSKI'S REDSTART** *Phoenicurus alaschanicus*, the monotypic family **PRZEVALSKI'S ROSEFINCH** *Urocynchramus pylzowi*, **ROBOROVSKI'S ROSEFINCH** *Kozlowia roborowskii* & **KOZLOV'S**

BUNTING *Emberiza koslowi* – are not really birdable until well into May the only realistic way to combine SE & NE Tibet on one trip would be to start at Lhasa.

Starting at Lhasa, however, would result in hiking & birding at altitudes of up to 4,500-5,000m before having had a chance to even begin to acclimatize, something that would virtually guarantee altitude effects from as a minimum serious discomfort for most group members to a very real risk of full-blown altitude sickness – even if the group has more than one vehicle at its disposal evacuation of one or more group members would inevitably seriously disrupt the trip for those who didn't fall at this first hurdle!

Time constraints is another consideration. To allow for altitude acclimatization and to make sure we have enough time to properly search for all the NE Tibet specialities at a realistic pace, absorb delays caused by circumstances, and if need be visit back-up sites if anything eludes us on the way the OBC Fundraiser spends 20 days in Qinghai. I have recently done slightly shorter trips (see e.g. http://www.netfugl.dk/trip_reports/asia/China_Qinghai_2011BE_JHornskov.pdf) ... so one CAN tag a brief 'fly-in, fly-out' visit to the Lhasa area – where the risk of plan-derailing weather is acceptable, even during the monsoon - onto a NE Tibet trip and still just about keep trip duration down to three weeks, the pretty much universally agreed maximum duration for advertised trips.

So why not do that, at least? There's a reason why anyone who's willing to take a chance on missing the 'key' birds in SE Tibet due to foreseeable (but not allowed for) complications, shortage of time dictating impossibly long drives & foreseeable (but not allowed for) disastrous weather, may wish to reconsider and that is the continued volatility of China's 'Tibet Autonomous Region', with the threat of unrest – or actual unrest - which should be taken very seriously. The essential travel permits for Tibet Autonomous Region will be unapologetically cancelled, without warning or further explanation, if there's unrest or a perceived heightened risk of unrest.

As recently as summer 2011 Tibet Autonomous Region was closed to 'foreign' tourists for at least a month, and there's no justification for assuming that was a one-off. On the trip dealt with in the present write-up we were able to carry on pretty much as planned and we had an outstanding time taking 18 days to cover Lhasa & SE Tibet, seeing very nearly as many species – 219 – as a NE Tibet trip yields, whilst enjoying landscapes 'certainly (according to one Himalayan veteran on a pioneering 2004 overland trip) surpassing anything in Bhutan & arguably even that of the magnificent Tianshan'.

Our legally required local guide - who had accompanied us on previous forays into SE Tibet - was however so dismayed by the current level of mostly behind-the-scenes chicanery & threats by local officialdom that he swore never to accept another assignment that involved birdwatching!

So – for the moment at least – on the OBC trips we will stick to NE Tibet.

In the species list the concept "bird-days" is used - it is the avian equivalent of man-hours: for example, separate flocks of ten and 15 Henri's Snowfinches moving through score 25 bird-days, as would the same single individual seen daily for 25 days. The sum of day totals - a handy measure of relative abundance, nothing more.

The sequence of the bird list follows *The Howard and Moore Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World – 3rd Edition* (Dickinson 2003), in my opinion by far the most useful one-volume checklist to date.

Species list:

Szechenyi's Monal Partridge *Tetraophasis szechenyi*

5+ heard on 15th.

Tibetan Snowcock *Tetraogallus tibetanus*

Eight bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Tibetan Partridge *Perdix hodgsoniae*

Nine on 28th.

Common Hill Partridge *Arborophila torqueola*

14+ bird-days. Heard on four dates.

Blood Pheasant *Ithaginis cruentus*

Two pairs (ssp *geoffroyi*) on 20th & one male *tibetanus* 'scoped on 26th – the last flew in out of the snowy forest and took up position above the road, monitoring our activities: it was a moment which encapsulated the magic of a birdwatching journey in Tibet.

***http://orientalbirdimages.org/search.php?p=3&Bird_ID=39&Bird_Family_ID=&pagesize=1

Temminck's Tragopan *Tragopan temminckii*

Three heard on 23rd.

Kalij Pheasant *Lophura leucomelanos*

One male at the side of the road on 17th.

White Eared Pheasant *Crossoptilon crossoptilon*

Two near Bomi on 21st.

***Cheng (1987) listed ssp *drouynii* for Lhunze (N 28 25, E 92 30), well to the SW of Bomi.

Elwes's Eared Pheasant *Crossoptilon harmani*

12+ bird-days. Noted on five dates – unbeatable views on 28th!

***Cheng (1987) has this species extend as far E as E 95 30 – our E-most birds were at cE 94 40.

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*

17 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

c325 bird-days. Noted on ten dates – main event 215+ along Lhasa river on 13th.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

42 bird-days. Noted on two dates.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*

20+ on 21st.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

97 bird-days. Noted on nine dates.

Chinese Spotbill *Anas zonorhyncha*
19 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Common Teal *Anas crecca*
Four bird-days. Noted on two dates.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*
134 bird-days. Noted on 11 dates.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
One near Bomi on 21st.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*
One near Bomi on 21st.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*
One adult @ Lhasa on 29th.
***Zheng (2005) listed the species for 'all [of China] except Xizang'.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*
15 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*
24 bird-days. Noted on 12 dates.

Saker *Falco cherrug*
One incubating bird on 27th.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*
One flew upstream near Bomi on 22nd.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*
Two on 26th.

Lammergeier *Gypaetus barbatus*
Six bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Himalayan Griffon *Gyps himalayensis*
57 bird-days. Noted on five dates – main event 42 on 14th.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*
A 2nd c-y @ Lhasa on 29th.
***A late-ish record; however, recorded as late as 9 May at Golmud, Qinghai (JH pers. obs.)

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*
Five bird-days. Noted on five dates.

*****Besra / Eurasian Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter virgatus / A. nisus*
One on 25th.

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

A 2nd c-y male on 21st.

Himalayan Buzzard *Buteo burmanicus*

6-7 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

***"Many individuals in the [Indian] region (immature *burmanicus*) are similar to resident nominate *japonicus* of Japan (with which *burmanicus* is often synonymised [including by Cheng 1987]). However, nominate *japonicus* shows little plumage variability, with no dark morph and virtually no rufous in plumage, and with slightly more extensive tarsal feathering; adult and juvenile *japonicus* differ only in minor details, while adult *burmanicus* are usually very different in plumage from *japonicus*. Himalayan breeders ('*refectus*') indistinguishable on plumage and size from widespread Chinese *burmanicus* and not recognised [...]. The name '*refectus*' Portenko 1929 is [...] considered a junior synonym of *burmanicus* Hume 1874. In DNA phylogenies (Riesing *et al.* 2003; Kruckenhauser *et al.* 2004) '*refectus*' (= *burmanicus*) clustered with *hemilasius* rather than *japonicus* as expected, and *burmanicus* clearly specifically distinct": Rasmussen & Anderton 2005.

Upland Buzzard *Buteo hemilasius*

Nine bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

Six bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Mountain Hawk Eagle *Spizaetus nipalensis*

One on 16th.

Common Coot *Fulica atra*

62+ bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Ibisbill *Ibidorhyncha struthersii*

Six bird-days. Noted on three dates.

***Somehow, Ibisbills seen in Tibet feeding on a flowered-over meadow or 'frozen' against a rushing, icy stream - yaks snorting in the background - are more *real* than the sad one or two pairs which cling on along the last stretch of acceptable water close to Beijing in competition with sickly-looking domestic ducks!

Long-billed Plover *Charadrius placidus*

Probably the same singleton seen very well on both 19+22nd.

***Cheng (1987) listed the species as wintering @ Bomi.

***In the Indian Subcontinent the species occurs as a 'winter visitor to NE, from Nepal and N Uttar to Assam Valley; also Manipur. A few sight reports for Bangladesh and other areas from Delhi to Sri Lanka and Andamans, but no specimens traced. Rare Nepal [but] fairly common Assam Valley': Rasmussen & Anderton (2005).

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

Seven bird-days. Noted along Lhasa river on three dates.

Solitary Snipe *Gallinago solitaria*

Two seen exceptionally well near Lhasa on 27th.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*
Six @ Lhasa on 29th.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*
Six bird-days. Noted on two dates.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
Singles along Lhasa river on two dates.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*
One along Lhasa river on 28th.

Great Black-headed Gull *Larus ichthyaetus*
57+ bird-days. Noted on five dates.

Brown-headed Gull *Larus brunnicephalus*
288+ bird-days. Noted on six dates.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*
12 bird-days. Noted along Lhasa river on three dates.

Blue Hill Pigeon *Columba rupestris*
40+ bird-days. Noted on five dates.

Snow Pigeon *Columba leuconota*
c635 bird-days. Noted on four dates – c400 'swirling round, landing... 'scoped on the ground' on 21st was a trip highlight.

Speckled Wood Pigeon *Columba hodgsonii*
c103 bird-days. Noted on four dates – a gathering of 30 on 23rd came down to ingest grit from a gritty bit of exposed ground above a stream...

Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*
144+ bird-days. Noted on 11 dates.

Lord Derby's Parakeet *Psittacula derbiana*
c105 bird-days. Noted on no less than six dates – on 20th we were 'nearly back by the vehicle, having 'put in the mileage', when a flock zoomed by without calling': nice enough, and this definitely earned us admittance to the exclusive club of birdwatchers who have seen this restricted-range species in the wild, but the *real* Tingaling! experience was 55 'scoped whilst feeding noisily up above the road on 21st.

Large Hawk-Cuckoo *Cuculus sparveroides*
Ten bird-days. Noted on six dates.

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*
Just one – heard & seen: at Lhasa on 30th.

***At Golmud, Qinghai, recorded no earlier than 15 May (JH pers. obs.).

Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus*
12 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

Chinese Tawny Owl *Strix nivicola*
Singles heard on two nights.

Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei*
Singles heard on two occasions.

Himalayan Swiftlet *Aerodramus brevirostris*
270+ bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*
105+ bird-days. Noted on six dates.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*
24 bird-days. Noted on just three dates.

Great Barbet *Megalaima virens*
83+ bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

Yellow-rumped Honeyguide *Indicator xanthonotus*
Four bird-days. Two individuals... knowing where to begin looking was of course a great help, but then we found A New Site: BINGO!

Speckled Piculet *Picumnus innominatus*
One on 16th.

Rufous-bellied Woodpecker *Hypopicus hyperythrus*
Four bird-days. Noted on two dates – it was great to watch a nest-hole-excavating male on 19th.

Crimson-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos cathpharius*
Five bird-days. Noted on three dates – two males w/ a female were busy up in a tree above the road on 17th, offering great 'scope views.

Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius*
Singles were noted on three dates.

Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus*
12 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*
One heard on 24th.

Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus*
Ten bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Short-billed Minivet *Pericrocotus brevirostris*
110 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

*****Minivet sp.** *Pericrocotus sp*
Two females at >3,700m on 25th.

Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus*

33 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*

Nine bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Yellow-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura hypoxantha*

25 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis*

Three bird-days. Noted on just two dates.

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Four bird-days. Noted on three dates – probably no more than two individuals were involved.

***Mimicry included Lord Derby's Parakeet, Yellownape sp & Yellow-billed Blue Magpie!

Yellow-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa flavirostris*

Four bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Tibetan Magpie *Pica (pica) bottanensis*

Ten bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Hume's Groundpecker *Pseudopodoces humilis*

14 bird-days. Noted on just two dates.

Eurasian Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes*

Nine bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

46+ bird-days. Noted on nine dates.

Alpine Chough *Pyrrhocorax graculus*

Four on 27th.

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*

72 bird-days. Noted on 11 dates.

Common Raven *Corvus corax*

13 bird-days. Noted en route on 14th.

'Great' Tit *Parus 'major' minor*

27 bird-days. Noted on nine dates.

Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus*

88 bird-days. Noted on 12 dates.

Rufous-vented Tit *Parus rubiventris*

75 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

32 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

Songar Tit *Parus songarus*

One heard on 27th.

White-browed Tit *Parus superciliosus*

One heard on 27th.

Grey Crested Tit *Parus dichrous*

Seven bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Fire-capped Tit *Cephalopyrus flammiceps*

52 bird-days. Noted on no less than seven dates – TINGALING!

Pale Sand Martin *Riparia diluta*

105+ bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

One on 23rd.

Eurasian Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

78+ bird-days. Noted on six dates.

Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus*

58+ bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

40 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Black-throated Tit *Aegithalos concinnus*

41 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

***The Himalayan race *iredalei* is noticeably different from *talifuensis* of Yunnan.

***Cheng (1987) recorded *iredalei* only from Nyalam, on the Nepal border; Zheng (2005), however, included also 'SE Xizang' in its 'Chinese' range.

Black-browed Tit *Aegithalos iouschistos*

Four bird-days. Noted on two dates: two with a mixed species flock at cE 94 50 & a pair carrying nest material at cE 93 27.

***This taxon had not been encountered by JH on previous visits to SE Tibet.

***Specific validity seems to hinge on the situation in the Bomi area: Dickinson (2003), Harrap & Quinn (1996) - 'the *iouschistos* and *bonvaloti* groups almost come into contact or even perhaps replace each other altitudinally in SE Tibet in Bomi, perhaps without intergradation' – Robson (1987) noted *iouschistos* E of Bomi (cE 96) although the regular form near Bomi is *bonvaloti* (Cheng 1987; JH pers obs). Evidence that they breed together without intergradation or hybridization is thus still lacking.

Pere Bonvalot's Tit *Aegithalos bonvaloti*

46 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

***This taxon was encountered no further W than cE 95 12; in April 2007 this taxon was noted W of Bayi...

White-browed Tit-Warbler *Leptopoecile sophiae*

Three on 28th.

Crested Tit-Warbler *Leptopoecile elegans*

Three males & two females on 15th. I have leafed through the dictionary & two Birdquest brochures to find a superlative which fully does this jewel justice – in vain!

Hume's Short-toed Lark *Calandrella acutirostris*

21 bird-days. Noted along Lhasa river on two dates.

Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula*

13 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

Two on 27th.

Black-throated Prinia *Prinia atrogularis*

Five bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*

105+ bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

Chestnut-headed Tesia *Oligura castaneocoronata*

Singletons heard on two dates.

Grey-bellied Tesia *Tesia cyaniventer*

68 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler *Cettia fortipes*

22 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

Tickell's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus affinis*

14 bird-days. Noted on nine dates.

***Martens (2008) elevates part of this species to full species status as *P. occisinensis*

http://globiz.sachsen.de/snsd/publikationen/vertebrate-zoology/vz58-2/06_Martens.pdf

Ashy-throated Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus maculipennis*

Five bird-days. Noted on three dates.

'Eastern' Lemon-rumped Warbler *Phylloscopus (chloronotus) forresti*

61 bird-days. Noted on ten dates.

***Martens *et al.* 2004 (*vide* Rheindt 2006) elevated *forresti*, considered a synonym of *chloronotus* by Cheng (1987), to full species status, splitting it from *chloronotus* (of Nepal) which, with *simlaensis*, becomes Western Lemon-rumped Warbler. The two differ “dramatically in song and mitochondrial DNA (4.2% cytochrome-b divergence)”: Rheindt (2006).

Given that the type locality for *forresti* is Lijiang, in Yunnan (Cheng 1987) it is not obvious that “Sichuan Leaf Warbler” is preferable to ‘Eastern Lemon-rumped Warbler’. “Presumably the hitherto unknown border between both species lies somewhere in Yunnan, Burma or north-eastern India.”: Rheindt (2006). *Ahem?*

Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*

61 bird-days. Noted on 13 dates.

Large-billed Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus magnirostris*
Two on 23rd.

Blyth's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides*
450+ bird-days. Noted on 13 dates.

Golden-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus burkii*
89 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

Whistler's Warbler *Seicercus whistleri*
13 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Grey-cheeked Warbler *Seicercus poliogenys*
Three bird-days. Noted on two dates.

Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps*
63 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

Black-faced Warbler *Abroscopus schisticeps*
11 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*
30 bird-days. Noted on ten dates.

Scaly-breasted Wren-Babbler *Pnoepyga albiventer*
Three bird-days. Noted on two dates.

Pygmy Wren-Babbler *Pnoepyga pusilla*
36 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

[?Spotted Wren-Babbler *Spelaeornis formosus*
A song heard distantly on 17th appeared to be this species'.]

Rufous-capped Babbler *Stachyris ruficeps*
25 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

Giant Babax *Babax waddelli*
13 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

***This little-studied S Tibet endemic 'has an impressive range of vocalizations. Admittedly, few of these are appealing to the human ear but at least they work well in keeping the birds active among themselves, flitting from bush to bush, bounding along between roadside boulders, or sitting up conspicuously on a dead twig or stone wall in invitation to camera- or videorecorder-wielding team members'.

White-throated Laughingthrush *Garrulax albogularis*
21 (two, seven & 12) were recorded on 22nd.

*****Pere David's Laughingthrush** *Garrulax davidi* [presumed feral]

Noted at Lhasa on both 13+30th – incl a pair w/ two pull on the last date.

***Lhasa is probably 1,000km away from the natural limit of the species' range – quite possibly the birds were there on account of the Buddhist tradition of catching wild birds, transporting them a long way, and releasing the survivors into unsuitable habitat... a procedure which apparently gains you merit!

Striated Laughingthrush *Garrulax striatus*

59 bird-days. This charismatic species was noted on no less than six dates.

Giant Laughingthrush *Garrulax maximus*

21+ bird-days. Noted on four dates.

***This superb-looking species has an impressive range of calls, some subdued, some anything but, yet others direct or derived mimicry – duetting birds are often a striking component in the dawn chorus.

Prince Henri's Laughingthrush *Garrulax henrici*

173+ bird-days. Noted on 11 dates.

***Endemic to S Tibet.

Black-faced Laughingthrush *Garrulax affinis*

74 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush *Garrulax erythrocephalus*

23 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

***Collar & Robson (HBW vol 12, p260), following on from Collar (2006), subjects this well-known 'species' to what amounts to a taxonomic ambush that appears to have left their HBW map-maker baffled... of relevance from a Tibet / China perspective are three 'species', incl Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron erythrocephalum*, comprising *erythrocephalum*, *kali* & *nigrimentum*, of which only the latter occurs in 'China' (SE Xizang).

It is perhaps symptomatic that Collar (2006) grouped *woodi* with these three!

nigrimentum 'has crown dark grey with broad black streaks, chestnut only on nape, and is much richer rufous [than extralimital *kali*] throughout underparts and on back and scapulars'.

Red-billed Leiothrix *Leiothrix lutea*

84 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

Cutia *Cutia nipalensis*

Seven on 16th – it was a real bonus to see so many so well!

White-browed Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius flaviscapis*

5-6 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Black-eared Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius melanotis*

Two heard singing on 16th.

Rusty-fronted Barwing *Actinodura egertoni*

Nine bird-days. Noted on three dates – main event five on 24th: finally came in & showed well.

***Zheng (2005) listed ssp *egertoni* for 'SE Xizang'.

Chestnut-tailed Minla *Minla strigula*

36 bird-days. Noted on nine dates.

Red-tailed Minla *Minla ignotinta*

Singles on three dates.

Yellow-throated Fulvetta *Alcippe cinerea*

6+ bird-days. Noted on three dates – two proved absurdly inquisitive on 17th, showing off at <2m from us and allowing LL to get some photos!

Rufous-winged Fulvetta *Alcippe castaneiceps*

Ten bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Chinese Fulvetta *Alcippe striaticollis*

6+ bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Ludlow's Fulvetta *Alcippe ludlowi*

15 bird-days. Noted on just two dates – as is often the case we had to work hard(-ish) for the 1st views, and then saw several more quite easily!

*****Fulvetta sp** *Alcippe sp*

1-2 on 21st.

Beautiful Sibia *Heterophasia pulchella*

35 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

Whiskered Yuhina *Yuhina flavicollis*

180 bird-days. Noted on nine dates.

Stripe-throated Yuhina *Yuhina gularis*

17 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Rufous-vented Yuhina *Yuhina occipitalis*

Nine bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

29 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Northern Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Two on 15th.

Naga Nuthatch *Sitta nagaensis*

100 bird-days. Noted on ten dates – main event 30 on 19th.

Hodgson's Treecreeper *Certhia hodgsoni*

11 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

***This newly elevated species “embraces the Sino-Himalayan [taxa] *hodgsoni* Brooks, 1874 (W Himalayas), *mandellii* Brooks, 1874 (E Himalayas) and *khamensis* Bianchi 1903 (SW & W China [N as far as the road between Jiuzhaigou & Sungpan in N Sichuan]”: D T Tietze *et al* 2006.

Blue Whistling Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus*
24 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

Plain-backed Thrush *Zoothera mollissima*
'Scope views of one singing at c4,100m on 15th.

Long-tailed Thrush *Zoothera dixonii*
One heard singing on 15th.

White-collared Blackbird *Turdus albocinctus*
44 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

Grey-winged Blackbird *Turdus boulboul*
Two bird-days. Single males were noted on two dates – memorable views of a treetop songster on 16th!

Tibetan Blackbird *Turdus maximus*
36 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

Black-throated Thrush *Turdus atrogularis*
One (probably 2nd c-y) on 30th.

Red-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis*
A 2nd c-y on 30th.

Naumann's Thrush *Turdus naumanni*
Three – single *naumanni*, *eunomus* plus an intermediate! – on 30th.
***It seemed fitting that our visit to Tibet should finish with this kind of a flourish: three species of thrush together in a group of no more than five individuals, all allowing prolonged 'scope viewing at fairly close range!

Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophrys*
Singles heard on three dates.

White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx montana*
One on 16th 'flew across road after perching briefly on crash barrier'...

Indian Blue Robin *Luscinia brunnea*
25 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

Himalayan Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger rufilatus*
29 bird-days. Noted on four dates – 12 in a morning, incl several males sitting out singing, was a trip highlight.
***The split (accepted by e.g. Rasmussen & Anderton 2005) from the Siberian taxon is based mainly on morphological and vocal differences.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*
26 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

Hodgson's Redstart *Phoenicurus hodgsoni*
33 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

White-throated Redstart *Phoenicurus schisticeps*
18 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

Daurian Redstart *Phoenicurus aureus*
44 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

Guldenstadt's Redstart *Phoenicurus erythrogastrus*
Three males were seen!

Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis*
54+ bird-days. Noted on four dates – most were in a fall of 50+ (LL, KLN).

Plumbeous Redstart *Rhyacornis fuliginosa*
26 bird-days. Noted on ten dates.

River Chat *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*
Seven bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Grey Bushchat *Saxicola ferreus*
Six bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*
One male along Lhasa river on 28th.

Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush *Monticola rufiventris*
One female seen well on 18th.

Slaty-backed Flycatcher *Ficedula hodgsonii*
A singing male - seen briefly - on 22nd.

Rufous-gorgetted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophciata*
12 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra*
One male on 23rd.

Sapphire Flycatcher *Ficedula sapphira*
A female-type of this sought-after species was seen on 18th.

Asian Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassinus*
44 bird-days. Noted on six dates. This vocal, attractive species was a strong presence in the mixed evergreen forest...

Rufous-bellied Niltava *Niltava sundara*
Two on 18th.

Pygmy Blue Flycatcher *Muscicapella hodgsoni*
Six bird-days. Noted on two dates.

Grey-headed Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*
56 bird-days. Noted on ten dates.

White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Seven bird-days. Noted on two dates – three of them were of the all-brown morph.

Brown Dipper *Cinclus pallasii*

One on 25th.

*****Dipper sp.** *Cinclus sp.*

Singles on two dates.

Buff-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectum*

58 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

Mrs. Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae*

167 bird-days. Noted on 11 dates.

Russet Sparrow *Passer rutilans*

Singles at Lhasa on two dates.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Widespread – not systematically recorded.

Tibetan (= Himalayan) Snowfinch *Montifringilla adamsi*

Singles on two dates.

White-rumped Snowfinch *Onychostruthus taczanowskii*

Five bird-days. Noted on two dates – this, the most charismatic of all the snowfinches is evidently much scarcer here than in NE Tibet, China's Qinghai province.

Rufous-necked Snowfinch *Pyrgilauda ruficollis*

45+ bird-days. Noted on two dates.

Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris*

Four seen well as they fed at the edge of the road on 14th.

Robin Accentor *Prunella rubeculoides*

23 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

Rufous-browed Accentor *Prunella strophiatea*

47 bird-days. Noted on nine dates.

Brown Accentor *Prunella fulvescens*

51 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

Maroon-backed Accentor *Prunella immaculata*

Eight on 25th justified putting in the extra mileage – Tingaling!

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*

Three males at Lhasa on 29th – two *calcarata* & one *citreola*.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Four bird-days. Noted on two dates.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

64 bird-days. Noted on 14 dates – both sspp *leucopsis* & *alboides* were identified.

***Alstrom & Mild (2003) concluded that various factors “suggest that the White Wagtail is best treated as a single species under the BSC”.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

21 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseus*

Three on 26th.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Three at Lhasa on 13th.

***Latest spring date for Golmud, Qinghai, was 3 Apr: JH pers. obs.

Black-headed Greenfinch *Carduelis ambigua*

44+ bird-days. Noted on three dates – main event a flock of 38 on 19th.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

c265 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Plain Mountain Finch *Leucosticte nemoricola*

1,160+ bird-days. Noted on four dates – main event(s) two swarms of 500+ on 26th.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrurus*

Two males by the hotel on 17th.

Pink-rumped Rosefinch *Carpodacus eos*

169+ bird-days. This juniper specialist was noted on eight dates.

Three-banded Rosefinch *Carpodacus trifasciatus*

11 bird-days. Noted on two dates.

Chinese White-browed Rosefinch *Carpodacus dubius*

29 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

***Two females seen rather briefly on 18 Apr 2007 [JH *et al.*] were at first thought to be Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch *C. thura*. However, on a 2nd visit later in spring 2007 birds in roughly the same area – including a couple of pretty males - were clearly not *C. thura*, and it was concluded that morphological and vocal differences from NE Tibet birds were down to these being *C. d. femininus* rather than the familiar *C. d. dubius*.

Eastern Great Rosefinch *Carpodacus rubicilloides*

19 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Spotted Great Rosefinch *Carpodacus severtzovi*

Ten bird-days. Noted on two dates.

Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

30 on 20th.

Brown Bullfinch *Pyrrhula nipalensis*

30+ bird-days. Noted on five dates – it was a real treat to ‘scope singing birds on 18th.

Grey-headed Bullfinch *Pyrrhula erythaca*

42+ bird-days. Noted on no less than five dates.

Collared Grosbeak *Mycerobas affinis*

Two on 15th.

White-winged Grosbeak *Mycerobas carniceps*

16 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

Golden-naped Finch *Pyrrhoptectes epauletta*

Four bird-days. Possibly the same two female-types on two dates.

Eastern Rock Bunting *Emberiza godlewskii*

74 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

Two near Bomi on 19th.

***Zheng (2005) listed the species for ‘all [of China] except Xizang’.

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MAMMALS

Assam Macaque *Macaca assamensis*

11+ on 22nd.

Orange-bellied Himalayan Squirrel *Dremomys lokriah*

Five animal-days. Noted on three dates.

Himalayan Marmot *Marmota himalayana*

Six on 27th.

Plateau Pika *Ochotona curzoniae*

c20 identified on 14th.

Woolly Hare *Lepus oiostolus*

Two on 28th.

Asian Black Bear *Ursus thibetanus*

One (KLN, DR) on 23rd – ouch!

Tibetan Gazelle *Procapra picticaudata*

15 animal-days. Noted on two dates.

Red Goral *Naemorhedus baileyi*

Three animal-days. Noted on two dates.

Blue Sheep *Pseudois nayaur*

Nine on 14th.