

Robin's Galore

A report of a short trip to see two difficult Robin species in China.



THE male Blackthroat a week earlier by Zang Yongwen

Itinerary

08-06 After arrival in Chengdu from Amsterdam strait to the hotel (Wen Jun Mansion) and birded in the park in the afternoon

09-06 Drove with a few scarce birding stops (mainly at the end near the park) to Jui Zhai Gou (JZ).

10-06 Birded all day at Jui Zhai Gou, first at Panda Lake later at the toilet houses near the boardwalk and at the end at Panda Lake again.

11-06 Drove with birding stops (again mainly at the end) to Changqing N.P (CH)

12-06 Birded all day at Changqing N.P.

13-06 Birded all day at Changqing N.P and walk up the ridge later that afternoon.

14-06 After birding in the morning on the route to the G5, drove back to Chengdu.

15-06 Flew back in the afternoon to Amsterdam.

*AAA = New species, including Holarctic (13), *AAA = New holarctic species (12)

See also: <http://www.dutchbirding.nl/news.php?id=848> and <http://www.chinabirdtour.com/reports-d.php?sortBy=52&sortId=61&id=190>

The Birds

001 Chinese Bamboo Partridge – *Bambusicola thoracicus*

14-06 2 birds, a pair, seen very well crossing the road and walking in the open (!) in a garden driving from CH to the G5. Most likely a pair, Seen very well after hearing it so many times during former trips!



The birds by Tang Jun

002 Blood Pheasant – *ithaginis cruentus*

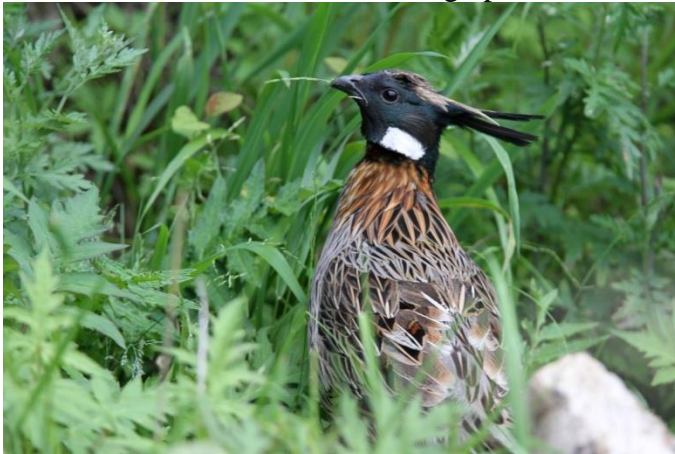
A total of 3 birds seen well at CH, often first found on call.



Blood pheasant, quite common by Tang Jun

003 Koklass Pheasant – *pucrasia macrolopha* ssp: *xanthospila*

A total of 3 birds seen when driving up and down at CH, one male seen extremely well.



The most beautiful one by Tang Jun

004 Common Pheasant – *phasianus colchicus* ssp: *strauchi* +??

A total of 3 birds seen spread over the trip, all without the white neck ring,

***005 GOLDEN PHEASANT – CHRYSOLOPHUS PICTUS**

A total of 23 seen at CH, mostly young males and females, but one immaculate male. The birds where feeding out in the open on the road, mostly in the late afternoon.

006 Mandarin Duck– aix galericulata

11-06 2 ex. in flight on the river. Not seen well, but well enough for an id. but not in breeding plumage.

007 Crested Ibis – nipponia nippon

A total of at least 11 birds in a small colony in a village close to (3 Km) CH. Seen sleeping in trees and feeding in the rice fields. One bird seen near the breeding center in flight. Heard calling, many birds where in the grayish breeding plumage.



Crested Ibis, feeding in the rice fields and very shy

008 Black-crowned Night Heron – nycticorax nycticorax

A total of 9 birds seen near Changdu and along the expressway to it.

009 Chinese Pond Heron – ardeola bacchus

Quite common in the rice field area's

010 Eastern Cattle Egret – bubulcus ibis ssp: coromandus

Common in the rice field in little flocks.

011 Grey Heron – ardea cinerea

14-06 2 ex. in flight along the way.

012 Little Egret – egretta garzetta

14-06 3 ex. near the Crested Ibis breeding centre.

013 Chinese Goshawk – accipiter soloensis

14-06 1 ex. seen well perched along the way to the G5, giving superb views.

014 Eurasian Buzzard – buteo buteo

12-06 1 ex. in flight at GH.

015 Speckled Woodpigeon – Columba hodgsonii

About 22 seen in several flocks at JZ and CH.

016 Oriental Turtle Dove – streptopelia orientalis ssp: orientalis

Common in the area near CH

017 Spotted Dove - streptopelia chinensis

Common around Chengdu and on the way from JZ to CH.

018 Large Hawk-Cuckoo – cuculus sparverioides

Heard and seen almost daily in low numbers.

019 Indian Cuckoo – cuculus miceopterus

2 birds heard at the CH area, not seen.

020 Himalayan Cuckoo – cuculus saturates

12-06 1 ex. heard singing at CH.

021 Lesser Cuckoo – cuculus poliocephalus

4 birds heard at the JZ and CH area, two of them seen well.

022 Common Koel – eudynamis scolopaceus

12-06 1 ex. heard singing near the village at CH

***023 TAWNY FISH OWL – KETUPA FLAVIPES**

11+14-06 2 birds at a nesting/feeding site near the road between CH and the G5. Giving very nice views, even seen preening. Big owls, with long ear plumes and spotted under parts.



A nice surprise, these two owls, also surprisingly, not Holarctic.

024 Salim Ali's Swift – apus salimali

09-06 30 ex. in small flocks along the way to JZ.

025 House Swift – apus nipalensis

Common around Chengdu.

026 Black-capped Kingfisher – halcyon pileata

11-06 1 ex. seen sitting near a stream, nice views.

027 Common Kingfisher – alcedo atthis

08-06 2 ex. at one of the city parks in Chengdu.

028 Crested Kingfisher – ceryle rudis

14-06 1 ex, seen perched at a wire above a river near the Crested Ibises.

029 Great Spotted Woodpecker – *dendrocopos major*

A total of 3 seen spread over the trip, not seen well to say something about the subspecies.

030 Grey-headed Woodpecker – *picus canus*

14-06 1 ex. heard well along the way.

031 SWINHOE'S MINIVET – *PERICROCOTUS CANTONENSIS

11-06 1 ex. seen very well near a little building along the way between the G5 and CH. Nice views with a large obvious white forehead and buff rump. A species I missed on former trips.

032 Long-tailed Shrike – *lanius schach* ssp: *tricolor*

14-06 2 ex along the way to the G5.

033 Grey-backed Shrike – *lanius sphenocercus*

09-06 1 ex. on a fence, along the way.

034 Black-naped Oriole – *oriolus chinensis*

14-06 1 ex. seen along the way.

035 Black Drongo – *dicrurus macrocercus*

11-06 2 ex. seen along the way.

036 Ashy Drongo – *dicrurus leucophaeus*

11-06 1 ex. seen well along the way, a very grey bird.

037 Hair-crested Drongo – *dicrurus hottentottus*

14-06 1 ex. seen at CH, with the tail tips up curved.

038 Red-billed Blue Magpie – *urocissa erythrorhyncha*

Commonly seen along the trip.

039 Common Magpie – *pica pica*

Commonly seen during the trip.

040 Eurasian Nutcracker – *nucifraga caryocatactes*

Quite common in the higher parts of the trip.

041 Red-billed Chough – *pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

09-06 4 ex. near JZ near the road.

042 Carrion Crow – *corvus corone* ssp: *orientalis*

2 birds at Panda Lake at JZ.

043 Large-billed Crow – *corvus macrorhynchos*

Quite common mostly at CH.

044 Great Tit – *parus major* ssp: *echodedicatus*

11-06 1 ex. along the way.

045 Green-backed Tit – *parus monticolis*

10-06 2 ex. at JZ.

046 Yellow-bellied Tit – *parus venustus*

14-06 30 ex. in two flocks in the lowlands near the place of the ibises.

047 Rufous Vented Tit – *parus rubidiventris*

09-06 1 ex. near JZ.

048 Coal Tit – *parus ater* ssp: *ater group*

10-06 1 ex. at JZ.

049 PERE DAVID'S TIT – *PARUS DAVIDI

10-06 2 ex. seen well, a pair at JZ, nice tit.

050 Grey-crested Tit – *parus dichrous*

09-06 2 ex. at a stop near JZ.

051 Barn Swallow- *hirundo rustica*

Quite common during the trip.

052 Eurasian Crag Martin – *ptyonoprogne rupestris*

Small numbers seen in the rocky outcrops on the higher levels visited.

053 Asian House Martin – *delichon dasypus*

14-05 10 ex. in one colony along the way.

054 “Eastern” Red-rumped Swallow – *cecropis daurica* ssp: *daurica*

Quite common during the trip, all birds with heavy streaking on the underparts, looking dirty when seen from far.

055 Black-throated Tit – *aegithalos concinnus*

A total of 30 birds seen in two flocks at Chengdu and JZ.

***056 SOOTY TIT – AEGITHALOS FULIGINOSUS**

13-06 8 ex. in one flock seen well at the highest point in CH, great views.

057 Oriental Skylark – *alauda gulgula*

09-06 2 ex. in song along the way.

058 Collared Finchbill – *spizixos semitorques*

Common in the province Shaanxi.

059 Brown-breasted Bulbul – *pycnonotus xanthorrhous*

Common in the province Shaanxi

060 Light-vented Bulbul - *pycnonotus sinensis*

Common in the province Chengdu.

061 Manchurian Bush Warbler – *cettia canturians*

Many heard lower down on the way back from CH to the G5.

***062 CHESTNUT-CROWNED BUSH WARBLER – CETTIA MAJOR SSP: MAJOR**

12-06 1 seen well in the open (face on) with the obvious chestnut crown at CH

***063 ABERRANT BUSH WARBLER – CETTIA FLAVOLIVACEA SSP: INTRICATA**

13-06 1 ex. seen and heard very well at CH, a drab dull bush warbler with a bit of a long tail and an obvious whistling song.

063 Yellow-bellied Bush Warbler – *cettia acanthizoides* ssp: *acanthizoides*

Common in CH.

064 Russet Bush Warbler – *bradypterus mandelli* ssp: *melanorhynchus*

14-06 2 ex. seen very well while having lunch at CH



Russet Bush Warbler, giving nice views by Zang Yongwen

065 Chinese Leaf Warbler – phylloscopus yunnanensis

Some singing birds in and near JZ and common in CH.

066 Sichuan Leaf Warbler – phylloscopus forresti ssp: pulcher

About 20 birds seen around (at the pass) and in JZ. A “pallas’s type” warbler with an ID on song.

067 Hume’s Leaf Warbler – phylloscopus humei

Commonly singing at the higher parts at JZ and CH.

068 Greenish Warbler – phylloscopus trochiloides ssp: trochiloides

Common at JZ and surroundings and CH. Some birds head a more thick wingbar than typical others.

069 Large-billed Leaf Warbler – phylloscopus magnirostris

Common at JZ and CH.

070 Claudia’s Leaf Warbler – phylloscopus reguloides

13-06 2 ex, a pair at a nest in CH. The birds were moving in the typical way as a Black and White warbler.

071 Bianchi’s Warbler – seicercus omeiensis

Common at JZ, id on song.

***072 MARTENS ‘S WARBLER – SEICERCUS OMEIENSIS**

Common and singing at CH. Id on song, again one of these the same looking seicercus..

073 Pygmy Wren-Babbler – pnoepyga pusilla

2 birds heard (calling and singing) at JZ and one of them seen very well.



The Pygmy wren by Tang Jun not totally in focus, but good enough for me. Spectacled Parrotbill by Tang Jun, the commonest forest Pb.

074 Rufous-capped Babbler – stachyris ruficeps

11-06 1 ex. seen a bit by accident along the way.

075 White-browed Laughing-thrush – garrulax sannio

Common spread over the trip and the most common in Chengdu’s city parks.

076 Elliot’s Laughing-thrush – garrulax elliotii

09-06 1 ex. at the pass near JZ.

Common in CH.

***077 GREAT PARROTBILL – CONOSTOMA AEMODIUM**

13-06 5 ex. seen well at CH, after knowing the call they are easy to find, huge bird.

***078 THREE-TOED PARROTBILL – PARADOXORNIS PARADOXUS**

13-06 1 ex. seen well after locating on its strange call (like an old radio), big parrotbill with a black line through and behind the eye, pale eye and orange yellow bill.

***079 SPECTACLED PARROTBILL – PARADOXORNIS CONSPICILLATUS**

13-06 15 ex, seen in small flocks or alone at CH.

080 Vinous-throated Parrotbill – *paradoxornis webbianus*

08-06 About 10 birds at Chengdu and a few along the river between CH and G5 on the way back.

081 Japanese White-eye – *zosterops japonicas*

Small groups seen in the low parts of CH.

082 Goldcrest – *regulus regulus*

About 4 birds heard at CH.

083 Winter Wren – *troglodytes troglodytes*

11-06 1 ex. heard along the way.

084 Eurasian Nuthatch – *sitta europaea ssp: sinensis*

10-06 2 ex. at JZ, buff colored underparts.

085 Crested Myna – *acridotheres cristatellus*

2 birds seen along the way when going north (10th) and later south (14th).

086 Red-billed Starling – *sturnus sericeus*

Common mostly in the north (CH).

087 Blue Whistling Thrush – *myophonus caeruleus*

Common at CH.

088 Chinese Blackbird – *turdus mandarinus*

08-06 7 ex. Chengdu in the city parks.

089 Chestnut Thrush – *turdus rubrocanus*

A total of 3 seen in and near JZ.

090 Chinese Thrush – *turdus mupinensis*

13-06 3 ex. singing at the highest point in CH, one showed well, looks larger than song.

***091 RUFIOUS-HEADED ROBIN – LUSCINIA RUFICEPS**

10-06 1 male seen well at JZ after 7 hours of “work” See in Dutch the story:

Vandaag mijn poging gedaan om de RHRobin te zien te krijgen. Na de foto's op surfbirds van Pete Morris en Alen Lewis was ik gealarmeerd over mijn slagingskansen gezien het veelvuldig gebruik van tapes voor deze soort in het gebied. Ik begreep in de dagen dat we naar deze plek reden dat er dit jaar maar twee!! vogels aanwezig zijn in het park. Een bij de plek van Ben (Panda Lake) welke na de platen van Surfbirds niet meer is gezien....en een vogel op de reguliere plek, welke dit voorjaar nagenoeg alleen maar gehoord wordt door de bezoekende vogelaars. We begonnen vanochtend om 07.30 tegen beter weten in bij Panda Lake zonder succes, dus toen maar op naar de "nachtmerrie" vogel van de oude plek. Deze liet zich rond 09.30 voor het eerst horen en later door het bos schieten (grijs lijf, rode bovenkop, 1 op de schaal van Lethaby) en vervolgens heeft het tot 15.00 geduurd voordat we, na een goed "plan F" van Tang om de nabij gelegen stroom over te steken, we de vogel dichtbij genoeg hoorde om een kans te maken hem te zien. Tot vier keer toe liet hij zich van dichtbij horen maar telkens kregen we niets te zien. Ik had inmiddels geen knieën meer over en zeeg neer op de bosgrond als een te dikke Panda toen de vogel op enkelhoogte een strofe liet horen uit een bamboe struweel. Tang, die veel betere ogen heeft dan deze oude Panda, knielde en keek met kijker in de bamboestruik zonder dat hij beweging van te voren zag. Opeens focuste hij en melde "drie meter vooruit", waarop ik mijn kijker focuste op een blobje in de bamboe....."gvd dat is hem" riep ik uit in het Nederlands (nieuw woord voor Tang, of eigenlijk twee), de vogel zat stil te poetsen en liet uit eigen beweging om de zoveel tijd een zangstrofe horen. Ik heb alle kenmerken geweldig kunnen zien, zelfs het staartpatroon, wat een droomsoort!! weliswaar in de dichte bamboe waardoor focussen met mijn fototoestel niet ging. De vogel bleef minimaal drie minuten zo zitten en na een beweging van mijn kant, verdween hij. Ons en vooral mij in volle blijdschap achterlatend. Missie geslaagd, hoewel geen foto en nu op naar een andere nachtegaal. Site at the "Boardwalk" place near the two toilet houses: <http://observado.org/waarneming/view/76938871>

***092 BLACKTHROAT – LUSCINIA OBSCURA**

12+13-06 3 males at CH.

Seen well after 6.5 hours of work. Saw the bird crossing the path twice when it “freezed a profile” twice, also saw it in flight with the nice tail pattern with white in the tail. Photo by Zang Yongwen of this famous male (taken on 04-06-2013). Also seen on 13-06 two more males on that date (heard only), a bit further up the road

<http://observado.org/waarneming/view/76939560>



The famous male by Tang Jun taken a few days before my visit.

093 White-throated Redstart – *phoenicurus schisticeps*

09-06 4 ex. at the pass before entering JZ.

094 Daurian Redstart – *phoenicurus aureus*

Quite common during the trip at all visited places.

095 Plumbeous Water Redstart – *rhyacornis fuliginosa*

Common in the streams

096 White-capped Water Redstart – *chaimarrornis leucocephalus*

A bit less common than 095 in the streams.

097 White-crowned Forktail – *enicurus leschenaultia* ssp: *sinensis*

13+14-06 a total of 4 birds at CH, nice views.

098 Grey Bushchat – *saxicola ferreus*

A total of 4 birds at the Shaanxi area.

099 Blue Rock Thrush – *monticola solitaries* ssp: *pandoo*

09+11-06 2 ex. around JZ

100 Ferruginous Flycatcher – *muscicapa ferruginea*

10-06 1 ex. at JZ.

13-06 2 ex. giving nice views at CH.

101 Rufous-gorgetted Flycatcher – *ficedula strophciata*

10-06 2 ex, a pair at JZ, nice views.

102 Taiga Flycatcher – *ficedulla albicilla*

10-06 1 male a migrant at JZ while searching for 091

103 Eurasian Tree Sparrow – *passer montanus*

Common all over the visited areas.

104 Russet Sparrow – *passer rutilans*

Common in the Shaanxi province.

105 Grey Wagtail – motacilla cinerea

Common in all visited streams.

106 White Wagtail – motacilla alba ssp: alboides

Quite common in both visited provinces.

107 Oriental Greenfinch – carduelis sinica

11-06 1 ex. seen along the road.

Common in and around Chengdu

108 Common Rosefinch – carpodacus erythrurus

11-06 1 heard singing (not seen) along the road.

109 Vinaceous Rosefinch – carpodacus vinaceus

A total of 6 seen (one ad. Male) at CH. Nice views.

110 Chinese White-browed Rosefinch – carpodacus dubius

09-06 3 ex. near the pass near JZ, good views of a male and two females.

111 Chinese Grosbeak – eophona migratoria

08-06 3 ex. a pair with young in Chengdu city park.

112 Godlewski's Bunting – emberiza godlewskii

1 male along the way to JZ, seen well near a quarry.

113 Yellow-throated Bunting – emberiza elegans

A total of 3 singing males seen near the hotel at CH.

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