

LABAHE NATURE RESERVE, SICHUAN, CHINA: RED PANDAS AND BIRDS

October 31 - November 5, 2016

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Contents

- Introduction
- Site details
- Resources
- Daily log
- Logistics
- Bird list
- Mammal list

Introduction

Labahe Nature Reserve (30°11'N, 102°27'E) in central Sichuan encompasses an area of rugged and scenic montane habitat in the Hengduan range. In fall, it's probably the best place in the world to see the gorgeous, elusive Red Panda. Visitors in 2012 and 2013 reported seeing up to four animals per day, but the reserve was closed to the public in the following years. The reserve's infrastructure was expanded during this time to support increased visitor numbers, with new roads, hotel facilities, and a cable car system being built. Labahe reopened in 2016; work brought me to back China in late October, and I was keen to see if the animals remained despite the recent disturbance. Fortunately, the Red Pandas are still there, and I had some terrific observations of at least five individuals over as many days. After quickly finding pandas, I spent much of my time birding. It was a bit slow going this late in the fall, but some good finds included Bar-winged Wren-babbler and Streaked Barwing. Spotlighting walks turned up Hog Badger and Masked Palm Civet. My five-day visit was longer than most, and gave me plenty of time to explore the site. This report includes notes on my bird and mammal observations; maps of the reserve's road and trail network; and updated logistical information for independent travelers. You can get in touch with me at hrt506@alumni.ku.dk.

Site Details

Labahe's road and trail network is illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 below. From the entrance gate at 1,350 masl, the paved road follows a deep gorge for c. 15 km up to the confluence of two mountain rivers at 1,850 m, where the visitor center is located. Here the road splits into east and west forks, following the rivers.

The west road fork and associated trails (Fig. 1) are where I and others have found Red Pandas. From the visitor center, the road closely follows the river upward for a few kilometers. Trail F leads up to an artificial pond and a bit beyond. Trail E winds a couple kilometers up into the forest, and offers good birding. It is accessed from the main road by a recessed walkway beneath the river. A small landslip blocks the trailhead, but is easily circumvented. This junction also leads to the lower end of the boardwalk. The main road climbs away from the river up to a parking lot/construction area at 2,450 m. Trail C (roughly approximated in Fig.

1) loops up and back to this spot. A deer pen was formerly located just up the main road from the 2,450 m parking lot; this was an important landmark in previous trip reports, but it has since been removed. Further up the main road, a gravel track to the west provides access to Trail D, which follows a stream uphill to some rocks covered in bright orange lichen. The gravel track also leads to the upper end of the boardwalk. After years of neglect, the boardwalk is now rotten, wobbly, and precarious – but it passes through some great Red Panda and bird habitat before it rejoins the main road lower down. The paved track ends at the lower cable car station at 2,750 m. The cable car system is scheduled for completion in August 2017; it will reach up to 3,500 m. For now, a dirt track continues just a little way past the lower station. There's a very steep path straight up the hillside (Trail A), which the cable line will follow, but it was filled with busy construction workers so it wasn't possible to walk here.

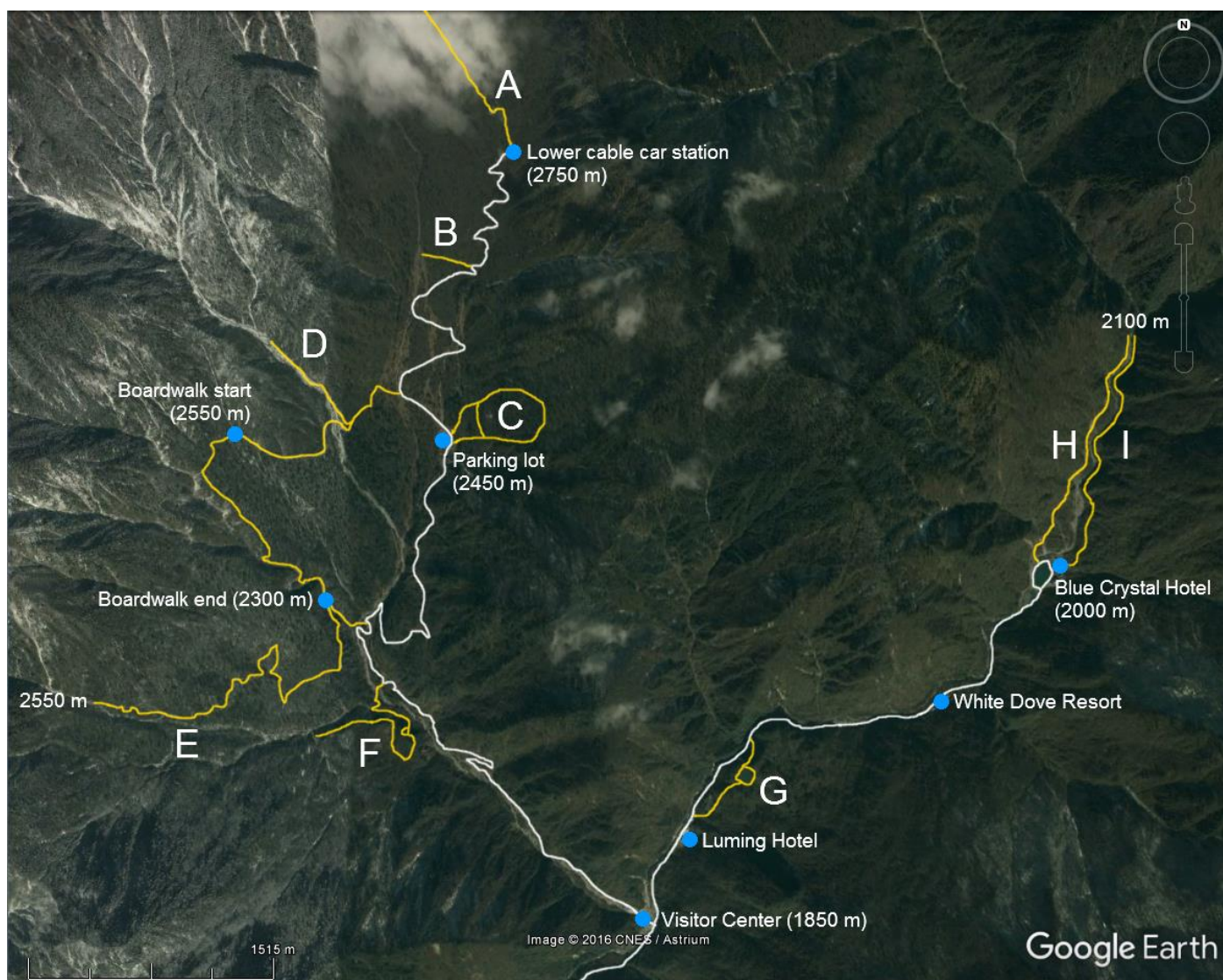


Fig. 1. Labahe NR core road and trail network. Paved roads are drawn in white; dirt tracks and walking paths are drawn in yellow, and letter-coded. Approximate elevations are given for certain points of interest, as estimated in Google Earth.

Red Pandas are most readily found in the area around the west fork of the main road, from approximately 2,200 m up to the lower cable car station. Much of the forest here is quite sparse, with a dense understory of chest-high bamboo. Especially good areas are in the vicinity of the 2,450 m parking lot, and the next kilometer or two up the main road; Trail C; and the boardwalk. In the fall (particularly late October and November), certain deciduous trees have lost their leaves and produce small, red berries. The pandas are often easy to spot as they feed and nap in these trees. They vanish instantly when they descend into the bamboo.

The east fork of the paved road, starting by the visitor center, follows another gorge for several kilometers (Fig. 1). It provides access to Luming Hotel, the abandoned White Dove Resort, and Blue Crystal Hotel, where the road ends. A walkway runs along the river, parallel to the road. Trail G, just past Luming Hotel, leads up to an artificial pond. Beyond Blue Crystal Hotel, there are footpaths on either side of the river (Trails H and I). I followed Trail H on the west river bank, hoping to make a big loop west along the valley bottoms up to the lower cable car station; but the trail dead-ends a couple kilometers upstream from the hotel, and the cliffs are too steep to continue. Trail I on the east river bank might extend even deeper northeast into the park, but I didn't walk it. Habitat along Trails H and I is mostly quite open and partially cleared, with lots of bamboo and scrub.

The 15 km entrance road (Fig. 2) provides access to lower altitudes, but birding was rather poor. There are few opportunities to escape the noise of the rushing river and the steep walls of the gorge, except along the short Road J. The last few kilometers of the road before the entrance gate are pockmarked with divots from falling rocks. It's probably smartest to avoid walking this stretch, especially if there's wind or rain. 200-300 m down the entrance road from the visitor center, there's a small road to the east that leads past a few buildings up into the hillside forest. I didn't walk it and it isn't marked in my maps, but in satellite imagery it seems to stretch for at least a couple kilometers, and could be worth exploring.



Fig. 2. Labahe NR entrance road. Note different map orientation from Fig. 1.

All paved roads are apparently open to private vehicles, but getting around the park is pretty simple even without a car. Chinese tourists and construction workers were very friendly, and it was easy to hitch rides. There are tourist buses (30 RMB per trip) leaving from the visitor center, going as far as the 2,450 m parking lot on the west road fork, and to Blue Crystal Hotel on the east road fork. Departures seemed rather infrequent and sporadic, so I never used these. I had to hike up the road when I wanted to be at the higher altitudes at dawn. A very nice surprise at Labahe was having the freedom to explore wherever and whenever I wanted. This is definitely not the situation at most other Chinese protected areas I've been to.

Disturbance from tourists and construction workers was a bit of an issue. Traffic could be particularly heavy on the east fork of the main road. But tourist activity was almost entirely limited to the paved roads and a few ugly artificial ponds, and I basically had the trail system to myself. Luming and Blue Crystal Hotels are noisy at night, and surprisingly seemed to attract guests and partygoers until at least 11pm. Spotlighting this area on foot was made difficult by the many cars driving the roads in the evening, and by the bright street lights set up all the way from the visitor center to Blue Crystal Hotel. Nevertheless, my better nocturnal observations were made around brightly-lit and noisy areas.

Resources

Richard Webb, "Red Pandas and Tibetan Plateau Predators."

<http://mammalwatching.com/Palearctic/Otherreports/RW%20Sichuan%202012.pdf>

-27-29 Oct 2012 Labahe visit. Useful info for finding Red Pandas and other mammals, with a few notes on birds.

Björn Anderson, "Labahe Nature Reserve, Sichuan, China."

http://www.club300.se/Files/TravelReports/Labahe2007_BA.pdf

-12-14 Oct 2007. An excellent independent birding trip report. Notes on finding Streaked Barwing.

Dave Sargeant, "Birding China – Yunnan & Sichuan."

http://www.worldtwitch.com/china_sargeant_2007.htm

-12-14 Oct 2007 Labahe visit (together with Björn Anderson; see above)

Israel Didham, "Little Fire Foxes at Labahe."

<https://www.travelblog.org/Asia/China/Sichuan/blog-814883.html>

-Travelogue from a few days spent looking for Red Pandas and birds in fall 2013. Some useful details.

John & Jemi Holmes, "June & July 2006, Sichuan Province, China Trip Report."

http://johnjemi.hk/journey_tr/cn/sc06_06/2006_06-07_sichuan.htm

-15-16 Jun 2006 Labahe visit. Birding trip report with some useful info on site access.

Rob Gordijn & Helen Rijkens, "Sichuan."

<https://penguinbirding.files.wordpress.com/2016/06/tripreport-sichuan.pdf>

-12-14 Jun 2016 Labahe visit. Independent birding trip report.

Romain Bocquier, "8 days Sichuan with Sid Francis October 2016."

<http://www.mammalwatching.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/RB-Trip-Sichuan-October-2016.pdf>

-Succinct list of mammals seen on a visit shortly before my own. Some good stuff I missed this time, including Complex-toothed Flying Squirrel, Red-and-white Giant Flying Squirrel, and Chinese Goral.

Hugh Lansdown, "Red Pandas in the Sichuan Mountains."

<http://hughlansdown.com/html/home/latest-news00032.html>

-17-19 Nov 2016 Labahe visit, shortly after mine. Great Red Panda photos and notes on a few other mammals and birds.

Huang, Y.-Y. et al. 2014. Population distribution of Giant Panda and its sympatric species in the Labahe Nature Reserve, Sichuan Province. *Journal of Ecology and Rural Environment* 30(2): 189-195.

<http://ir.ioz.ac.cn/handle/000000/9411>

-Chinese language paper with English abstract. Notes occurrence of some interesting mammals at Labahe: Takin, Asiatic Black Bear, Tufted Deer, Chinese Serow, Chinese Forest Musk Deer, etc.

"Sichuan Birding" thread on BirdForum

<http://www.birdforum.net/showthread.php?t=149725>

-The best place to keep abreast of the frequent birding site closures/reopenings in Sichuan. Several interesting posts related to Labahe can be found by digging through this long thread.

Daily Log

October 31: west road fork

Arrived at Luming Hotel at noon. Half an hour later I got a ride up the west fork of the road, to the parking lot at 2,450 m. The fog was extremely thick. After just an hour spent walking 2 km up the road, I found my first **Red Panda** moving through the branches of some roadside trees. It stayed in sight for a minute before

climbing headfirst down a tree trunk and disappearing into the bamboo. Continuing up beyond the lower cable car station, I found a nice mixed flock that included 8-10 **Three-toed Parrotbills** and 30+ **Fulvous Parrotbills**. I turned around and headed back down the road, finding **Great Parrotbill** (4) not too far below the lower cable car station. Further down, I refound the **Red Panda** resting curled up on a clump of moss in one of the same trees I'd seen it in earlier. Just below the 2,450 m parking lot were 3 **Red Deer** eating from a trough. These and other Red Deer I encountered at Labahe acted very tame, and they're likely animals freed from the deer pen mentioned in older trip reports. I walked down the track to Luming; it was dark enough to spotlight for the last 45 minutes, but I only found one **Sambar** in the foggy drizzle. There's a salt lick outside the dining room of the hotel, and 20+ **Sambar** were seen gathered here each evening.

November 1: east road fork and associated trails; and Trail F

Out at 7am into an overcast morning. The target today was Streaked Barwing. Björn Anderson and Dave Sargeant found it around White Dove Resort in Nov 2007, and a contact of theirs saw it in the same place in Nov 2005. I birded along the east fork of the main road, up past the now abandoned White Dove Resort, to Blue Crystal Hotel. This stretch yielded **White-crowned Forktail**, **Bar-tailed Treecreeper**, **Vinaceous Rosefinch**, and **Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler**. From Blue Crystal Hotel I crossed a small footbridge, passed some workers' quarters, and climbed a set of steps to reach the beginning of Trail H. At the top of the climb, a scrubby little forest patch held a big mixed flock with **Streaked Barwing** (6+) and **Vinaceous Rosefinch** (3). After most of the flock had moved on, 2 **Spotted Laughingthrushes** briefly emerged from the tangle. I walked Trail H to the end and back, unsuccessfully looking for Red-winged Laughingthrush. Anderson and Sargeant found it somewhere around here (maybe the start of Trail I?). Following the riverside walkway back towards Luming, I came across another mixed flock with 3+ **Streaked Barwings**. These might have been the same birds from earlier; the spot was c. 1 km distant from my first sighting, near White Dove Resort but on the opposite side of the river. Further downstream was a **Slaty Bunting**, and a stand of conifers across the river from the hotel held **Darjeeling** and **Crimson-breasted Woodpeckers** foraging in the same tree.

The weather had deteriorated by early afternoon, with heavy fog and drizzle. I walked up the west road fork to the start of Trail F, seeing **Bay Woodpecker** en route. Nothing interesting was seen along Trail F, and I hitched a ride down to Luming at dusk. I went spotlighting on foot from 8:00-10:30pm, walking a kilometer or so down the entrance road, and then back another kilometer beyond Luming. The dark entrance road was empty, but I found a **Masked Palm Civet** sitting in a tree opposite the brightly lit visitor center. Even better was a **Hog Badger**, seen beautifully for three minutes just across the river from Luming, which was not put off by the lights, music and people milling around outside.

November 2: west road fork and associated trails

I decided to spend the day trying for better views of Red Panda, and hitched a ride up to the highest point of the west road fork. The weather was mostly clear with scattered clouds, revealing high peaks dusted with snow. Blue Sheep have been seen here, but I couldn't pick out any scanning with binoculars. Further down the road, below the lower cable car station, I saw **Great Parrotbill**, **White-browed Bush Robin**, and **Golden Bush Robin**. A short search along Trail B turned up **Grey-headed Bullfinch** and a second **Golden Bush Robin**. Continuing back down the main road, I spotted an **Asian Brown Flycatcher**, before heading off onto Trail D. The hillsides here held a small flock of **Brown Parrotbills** and a **Himalayan Bluetail**.

In the late morning I started down the abandoned, rotten boardwalk. About 2/3 of the way along, as I was looking at a resting flock of 50-60 **Speckled Wood Pigeons**, three **Red Pandas** popped out of the bamboo and up into a small tree. The mother and her two cubs fed on berries for an hour before climbing down and disappearing again. Near the bottom of the boardwalk, a **White-throated Dipper** flushed upstream; and 30

m further, a **Brown Dipper** flushed downstream. People have occasionally found Giant Panda crap on the boardwalk in the past, but I saw none. The fog thickened considerably by the time I reached Trail E in the afternoon, but bird activity was high as I walked the first 1.5 km of the trail and back. Best sighting here was a **Bar-winged Wren-Babbler**, which is not recorded very often in Sichuan; it scolded me for three minutes from a series of conspicuous perches within a patch of bamboo at 30°10'39"N, 102°25'13"E. Four **Eyebrowed Thrushes** foraged together with **Chestnut Thrushes** in a nearby tree. I met a **White-backed Woodpecker** before rejoining the main road at dusk. I hitched a ride back to Luming, and skipped spotlighting in the drizzle.

November 3: entrance road and east road fork

Spent a long morning walking down the road to the entrance gate. I was hoping to connect with Golden-fronted Fulvetta and Emei Shan Liocichla, both reportedly present at Labahe. Neither appeared, and birding was pretty slow. Species along the first km or so of the entrance road included **Green Shrike-babbler** (5), a **White-browed Bush Robin**, and a couple large flocks of **Speckled Wood Pigeon** totaling 200-300 birds. Despite sunny weather, the steep gorge was cold, dark, and breezy, with lots of noise from the river. River birds included many **Brown Dippers** and a **Spotted Forktail**. **Slaty Bunting** (2 + 2) was also seen along the entrance road. The only obvious opportunity to escape the river for flatter, quieter habitat was at Road J, where I tracked down a pair of calling **Lady Amherst's Pheasants**. I reached the entrance gate in the early afternoon, and the staff summoned someone who kindly gave me a free lift back up to Luming.

Later in the afternoon, I climbed up Trail G; a **Perny's Long-nosed Squirrel** was near the artificial pond. Three more of these squirrels appeared along the walkway up towards Blue Crystal Hotel, as well as a **Taiga Flycatcher**. I checked the very beginning of Trail I at dusk, finding **Himalayan Bluetail**. From 6:45-8:00pm, I spotlighted back from Blue Crystal Hotel to Luming, but the whole stretch was lit up by streetlights; there was quite a lot of car and pedestrian traffic; and I only saw three **Red Deer** by White Dove Resort.

November 4: west road fork and associated trails

Another beautiful, warm, breezy day with little bird activity. A **Reeves' Muntjac** was barking from the slopes above the visitor center as I began to hike up the west road fork up to the start of Trail E. I followed Trail E to the end; it was mostly silent, although two **Maroon-backed Accentors** appeared at the Bar-winged Wren-Babbler spot. In the early afternoon, I walked the long way around Trail C, and found another **Red Panda** feeding in the top of a tall tree. The only bird of interest on the long walk back to Luming was a **Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker**. After an evening rain shower, I went spotlighting from 9:30-11:00pm, down a few hundred meters beyond the visitor center and back to Luming – but this was fruitless.

November 5: Trail G

Last morning. With 1.5 hours at my disposal, I headed up Trail G. A **Chinese Thrush** appeared in a tree at the edge of the artificial pond at the top. There was a lot of bird activity off the trail east of the pond. The forest here is pretty level and open, and it might be worth poking around a bit. On the walk down the trail towards Luming, I startled a **Reeves' Muntjac**, and glimpsed a group of 2 or 3 **Lady Amherst's Pheasants**.

Logistics

1. Accommodation & food

I stayed at the huge Luming Hotel; it was RMB 150 per night, with a hefty security deposit. This was a bargain for such a nice room, which also had pretty good Wi-Fi. I don't know if this was a low season price,

or just because they built way more rooms than they can fill. Luming has a restaurant serving decent Chinese food. There's a little shop selling snacks and drinks (but no batteries) near the visitor center.

2. Getting there

From Chengdu, take one of the frequent buses from Xinnanmen Bus Station to Ya'an (c. 2 hrs). Apparently buses to Ya'an sometimes dump tourists at the Bifengxia Panda Center; make sure you go all the way to the actual bus station in the city. From Ya'an, take another bus to Tianquan (c. 1 hr); these also leave frequently. There are occasional buses from Tianquan to Labahe, but I had to hire a taxi. It took some persistence to negotiate a cab driver down to RMB 200, which might be approaching the actual going rate. It's an hour's drive from Tianquan to the park entrance gate. The entrance fee was c. RMB 50. Taxis are not allowed to drive the last 15 km or so up to the hotels; it's RMB 35 for a lift from park staff. If you can't make it from Chengdu to Labahe in one day, both Ya'an and Tianquan are sizeable cities where you can find a place to sleep. Beware that road construction can throw off your schedule; it took 3-4 hrs to get from Labahe to Tianquan on my way out. Bus trips were in the range of RMB 20-50.

Xinnanmen Bus Station, Chengdu 新南门汽车站

Ya'an 雅安

Tianquan 天全

Labahe 喇叭河

Birds (taxonomy follows IOC v. 6.3)

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* - 2 Trail H (11/1)

Lady Amherst's Pheasant *Chrysolophus amherstiae* - 2 Road J (11/3); 2 or 3 Trail G (11/5)

Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus* - 1 on 11/1, 1 on 11/3

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* - 1 (11/1)

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* - 1 Trail E (11/4)

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* - 1 Trail D (11/2); 1 entrance road (11/3)

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* - 1 ad. male patrolling along river from White Dove Resort and up beyond Blue Crystal Hotel (11/1)

Speckled Wood Pigeon *Columba hodgsonii* - 50-60 boardwalk (11/2); 200-300 upper entrance road (11/3); 26 + 60 west road fork (11/4)

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis* - 1 Blue Crystal Hotel (11/1)

Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Yungipicus canicapillus* - 1 lower part of west road fork (11/4)

Crimson-breasted Woodpecker *Dryobates cathpharius* - 1 across river from Luming (11/1); 1 Trail E (11/2); 1 Trail G (11/5)

Darjeeling Woodpecker *Dendrocopos darjellensis* - 1 across river from Luming (11/1); 1 Trail E (11/2)

White-backed Woodpecker *Dendrocopos leucotos* - 1 Trail E (11/2)

Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus* - 1 upper entrance road (11/3); 1 Trail C (11/4)

Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis* - 1 west road fork (11/1)

Green Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius xanthochlorus* - 5 upper entrance road (11/3)

Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus* - 1 upper entrance road (11/3)

Red-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythroryncha* - common; several daily

Spotted Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes* - quite common along upper part of west road fork and associated trails; seen most days

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos* - common; many daily

Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus* - 2 on 11/1; 2 on 11/3; 1 on 11/4.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater* - 1 Trail E (11/2); 2 Trail G (11/5)

Grey Crested Tit *Lophophanes dichrous* - 1 or 2 most days

Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus* - 1 across river from Luming (11/1)

Collared Finchbill *Spizixos semitorques* - 4 + 4 near White Dove Resort (11/1)
Black-browed Bushtit *Aegithalos bonvaloti* - common; many daily
Buff-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus pulcher* - a few 11/1 and 11/2
Sichuan Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus forresti* - common; many daily
Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis* - 2 + 2 + 1 btw White Dove Resort and Blue Crystal Hotel; and Trail H (11/1)
Bar-winged Wren-Babbler *Spelaornis troglodytoides* - 1 calling bird seen well along Trail E (30°10'39"N, 102°25'13"E) (11/2)
Rufous-capped Babbler *Stachyridopsis ruficeps* - 6 total btw White Dove Resort and Blue Crystal Hotel; and Trail H (11/1); a few entrance road and Road J (11/3)
David's Fulvetta *Alcippe davidi* - 2 entrance road (11/3)
Spotted Laughingthrush *Garrulax ocellatus* - 2 Trail H (11/1)
Elliot's Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron elliotii* - common; many daily
Black-faced Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron affine* - common; several most days
Streaked Barwing *Actinodura souliei* - 6+ at start of Trail H (11/1); 3+ (possibly same) near White Dove Resort (11/1)
Red-billed Leiothrix *Leiothrix lutea* - 1 Trail H (11/1); 2 Road J (11/3)
Grey-hooded Fulvetta *Fulvetta cinereiceps* - common; many daily
Great Parrotbill *Conostoma aemodium* - 4 below lower cable car station (10/31); 1 below lower cable car station (11/2)
Three-toed Parrotbill *Cholornis paradoxa* - 8-10 above lower cable car station (10/31)
Brown Parrotbill *Cholornis unicolor* - 3+ Trail D (11/2)
Fulvous Parrotbill *Suthora fulvifrons* - 30 above lower cable car station (10/31); 40 below lower cable car station (11/2)
Stripe-throated Yuhina *Yuhina gularis* - fairly common
White-collared Yuhina *Yuhina diademata* - common; many daily
Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* - 1 seen and more heard Trail E (11/2)
Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* - a few most days
Chestnut-vented Nuthatch *Sitta nagaensis* - common; many daily
Hodgson's Treecreeper *Certhia hodgsoni* - 1 Trail H (11/1); 1 Trail E (11/2)
Bar-tailed Treecreeper *Certhia himalayana* - 1 White Dove Resort (11/1); 1 entrance road (11/3)
Chestnut Thrush *Turdus rubrocanus* - several along upper west road fork and associated trails on a few dates, including 15+ on Trail C on 11/4
Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus* - 4 Trail E (11/2)
Chinese Thrush *Turdus mupinensis* - 1 Trail G (11/5)
Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica* - 1 west road fork (11/2)
White-browed Bush Robin *Tarsiger indicus* - 1 below lower cable car station (11/2); 1 upper entrance road (11/3)
Himalayan Bluetail *Tarsiger rufilatus* - 1 Trail D (11/2); 1 Trail I (11/3)
Golden Bush Robin *Tarsiger chrysaeus* - 1 below lower cable car station (11/2); 1 Trail B (11/2)
Little Forktail *Enicurus scouleri* - a few most days
White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus leschenaulti* - 1 + 1 btw Luming and Blue Crystal Hotel (11/1)
Spotted Forktail *Enicurus maculatus* - 1 entrance road (11/3); 1 west road fork (11/4)
Taiga Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla* - 1 walkway btw Luming and Blue Crystal Hotel (11/3)
Hodgson's Redstart *Phoenicurus hodgsoni* - a few most days
Daurian Redstart *Phoenicurus aureus* - common; several daily
Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis* - common; many daily
Plumbeous Water Redstart *Phoenicurus fuliginosus* - common; many daily
White-capped Redstart *Phoenicurus leucocephalus* - common; many daily
White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus* - 1 near bottom of boardwalk (11/2)
Brown Dipper *Cinclus pallasii* - common; several daily
House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* - 3 upper entrance road (11/3); not Russet Sparrow. Not sure if these are introduced, or winter visitors.
Rufous-breasted Accentor *Prunella strophiatea* - common; several most days
Maroon-backed Accentor *Prunella immaculata* - 2 Trail E (11/4)

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* - common; several daily

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* - 1 + 1 Trail F (11/1); 10 total at various places on 11/2

Grey-headed Bullfinch *Pyrrhula erythaca* - 10 Trail B (11/2)

Vinaceous Rosefinch *Carpodacus vinaceus* - 1 White Dove Resort (11/1); 3 Trail H (11/1)

Grey-capped Greenfinch *Chloris sinica* - 7 Blue Crystal Hotel (11/1)

Slaty Bunting *Emberiza siemsseni* - 1 walkway btw Luming and White Dove Resort (11/1); 2 + 2 entrance road (11/3)

Mammals (taxonomy follows Wilson & Reeder's Mammal Species of the World, 3rd Ed.)

Tibetan Macaque *Macaca thibetana* - common, especially at places tourists congregate, where they are fed. Elsewhere rather shy. Aggressive monkeys between White Dove Resort and Blue Crystal Hotel.

Perny's Long-nosed Squirrel *Dremomys pernyi* - 1 Trail G (11/3); 2 + 1 walkway btw Luming and Blue Crystal Hotel (11/3)

Swinhoe's Striped Squirrel *Tamiops swinhoei* - fairly common along upper part of west road fork

Masked Palm Civet *Paguma larvata* - 1 across from visitor center complex, east of river (11/1)

Hog Badger *Arctonyx collaris* - 1 across river from Luming (11/1)

Red Panda *Ailurus fulgens* - 1 + 1 (most likely same animal) west road fork (10/31); 3 boardwalk (11/2); 1 Trail C (11/4).

Red Deer *Cervus elaphus* - 3 west road fork (10/31); 3 White Dove Resort (11/3). Likely animals freed from the old deer pen.

Reeves' Muntjac *Muntiacus reevesi* - 1 heard barking near visitor center (11/4); 1 Trail G (11/5)

Sambar *Rusa unicolor* - c. 20 nightly from Luming restaurant; also numerous on hillsides around Luming, and a few sightings elsewhere. Labahe is covered with hoofprints; I think most are made by Sambar.