



As part of the 5 Sichuan Mammals Tours which Royle Safaris ran in the Giant Panda breeding season of 2025 this trip report is from the second group tour which was in late March to early April. Unlike our first group tour the weather was good to us and the trip ran easily. Although ice from heavy snow falls on days preceding the trip gave us driving difficulty the first couple of days. Luckily the weather improved over the next days and although it was cold and snowed a little on the plateau we had no major problems. This is the short summary of the first group trip as well as our sightings log of which animals were seen and where they were seen.

All of our Sichuan Mammals Tours start and end in Chengdu, after collection from Shanguliu airport in the city the group was taken direct to our panda location in the Wolong Greater Ecosystem. We keep the site a secret and our plan is to spend a week here scanning and hiking and searching for possibly the most iconic species in the world as well as seeing what else we can find there. If we get our target early we can leave here and spend some time in Labahe Natural Nature Reserve where a wealth of species can be seen including many quite easily.

From the forested hills here we head towards the Tibetan Plateau and reach the edge and the grasslands of Rouergai, after some time where we finish the trip in the very famous and great reserve of Tangjiahe, there was also a side trip to a forest near Pingwu which has a habituated group of monkeys that we also visited.

The highlight of the trip must have been the **Giant panda** on day 1. However, although ZZ could confirm the sighting through the scope, the views were bad, brief and not wholly satisfactory, so the prolonged and excellent views we had of **Asiatic Black Bear** at Tangjiahe were probably a more satisfying experience for the group.

Other high-profile targets: **Chinese Red Panda**, **Chinese Mountain Cat** and **Sichuan Takin** were all easily found. This trip used Langmusi as the main site for the **Chinese Mountain Cat** – sightings here included 2 daylight views just minutes from our hotel. There were several sightings of **Red Panda** at our panda site that gave excellent photo opportunities. **Sichuan Takin** was a common nighttime sight at Tangjiahe, with large herds that included mothers with young calves. Other interesting species included the two species of **Musk Deer** – **Forest Musk** at Labahe and a single **Alpine Musk** at Langmusi. Both **Asian** and **Northern Hog Badger** were present – 3 **Asian Badgers** being seen during one night on the plateau. We also trapped small mammals, finding 3 species. Total list of mammals came to 41.

The group was made up of Jon Swenson, Hector & Monica Gomezde Silva, Angiolo Laviziano, Bart de Knecht, Colm Vincent, Jane Eagleson, Simon Pinder and David Clark (although due to personal reasons, David had to cancel shortly before the start of the trip).

Both of our group tours are currently fully booked for 2026 now and so there is currently no availability to join trips, however we can look to accommodate private tours (subject to availability) if anyone are interested. We have started getting bookings on our 2027 groups now also. Please just email me direct at info@royle-safaris.co.uk for more information on how to join groups for 2027 or look into the possibility of a private tour in 2026.

We have some pictures below the sightings log from Colm Vincent.

Species List

Sichuan's Mammals Tour

March / April 2025

Mammals († = heard or signs only)

		Common Name	Binominal Name	Key: WOL (Panda Location) / LAB (Labahe) / ROU (Rouergai) / TAN (Tangjiahe) / PIN (Pingwu) / (DUJ) Dujiangyan					
				WOL	LAB	ROU	TAN	PIN	DUJ
1		Giant panda	<i>Ailuropoda melanoleuca</i>	*					
2		Chinese red panda	<i>Ailurus styani</i>	*					
3		South China field mouse	<i>Apodemus draco</i>				*		
4		Northern hog badger	<i>Arctonyx albogularis</i>		*		*		
5		Sichuan takin	<i>Budorcas taxicolor</i>				*		
6		Pallas's squirrel	<i>Callosciurus erythraeus</i>					*	*
7		Siberian roe deer	<i>Capreolus pygargus</i>			*			
8		Chinese serow	<i>Capricornis milneedwardsii</i>	*	*				
9		Perny's long-nosed squirrel	<i>Dremomys pernyi</i>		*			*	
10		Tufted deer	<i>Elaphodus cephalophus</i>	*					
11		Chinese mountain cat	<i>Felis bieti</i>			*			
12		Parti-coloured flying squirrel	<i>Hylobates alboniger</i>	*					
13		Malayan porcupine	<i>Hystrix brachyura</i>	*			*		
14		Woolly hare	<i>Lepus oiosolus</i>			*			
15		Rhesus macaque	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>				*		
16		Tibetan macaque	<i>Macaca thibetana</i>	*	*		*		
17		Himalayan marmot	<i>Marmota himalayana</i>			*			
18		Yellow-throated marten	<i>Martes flavigula</i>	*					
19		Asian badger	<i>Meles leucurus</i>			*			
20		Forest musk deer	<i>Moschus berezovskii</i>		*				
21		Alpine musk deer	<i>Moschus chrysogaster</i>			*			
22		Reeve's muntjac	<i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>		*		*		
23		Chinese goral	<i>Naemoredus griseus</i>		*		*		
24		Indomalayan niviventer	<i>Niviventer fulvescens</i>		*				
25		Plateau pika	<i>Ochotona curzoniae</i>			*			
26		Thomas's pika	<i>Ochotona curzoniae</i>			*			
27		Moupin pika	<i>Ochotona thibetana</i>	*					
28		Himalayan palm civet	<i>Paguma larvata</i>		*		*		
29		Indonchiense Short-tailed shrew	<i>Parablarinella griselda</i>		*				
30		Red-and-white giant flying squirrel	<i>Petaurista alborufus</i>		*				

31	Tibetan gazelle	<i>Procapra picticaudata</i>
32	Blue sheep	<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>
33	Japanese greater horseshoe bat	<i>Rhinolophis nippon</i>
34	Golden snub-nosed monkey	<i>Rhinopithecus roxellana</i>
35	Sambar	<i>Rusa unicolor</i>
36	Pere David's rock squirrel	<i>Sciurotamias davidianus</i>
37	Wild boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>
38	Swinhoe's striped squirrel	<i>Tamias swinhoei</i>
39	Asiatic black bear	<i>Ursus thibetanus</i>
40	Tibetan fox	<i>Vulpes ferrilata</i>
41	Red fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>

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NB 1: Some bats identified 100% at roosts or with good views. Others identified with spectrograms in combination with sightings (no spectrograms without visual confirmation are recorded), behaviour and habitat – so not 100% but best educated guesses. For more information please email me.

Outstanding Birds (not a full list)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Rufous-faced Warbler	<i>Abroscopus albogularis</i>
2	Rufous-breasted Accentor	<i>Prunella strophilata</i>
3	Crested Goshawk	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>
4	Black-browed Bushtit	<i>Aegithalos bonvalotis</i>
5	Black-throated Bushtit	<i>Aegithalos concinnus</i>
6	Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>
7	Mrs Gould's Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga gouldiae</i>
8	Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>
9	Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>
10	David's Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe davidi</i>
11	Rosy Pipit	<i>Anthus roseatus</i>
12	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>
13	Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>
14	Himalayan Buzzard	<i>Buteo burmanicus</i>
15	Upland Buzzard	<i>Buteo hemilasius</i>
16	Eastern Buzzard	<i>Buteo japonicus</i>
17	Chinese White-browed Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus dubius</i>
18	Long-tailed Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus sibiricus</i>
19	Pink-rumped Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus waltoni</i>
20	Fire-capped Tit	<i>Cephalopyrus flammiceps</i>
21	Hodgson's Treecreeper	<i>Certhia himalayana</i>
22	Bar-tailed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia hodgsoni</i>
23	White-capped Water-Redstart	<i>Chaimarrornis leucocephal</i>
24	Long-billed Plover	<i>Charadrius placidus</i>

25	Grey-capped Greenfinch	<i>Chloris sinica</i>
26	Golden Pheasant	<i>Chrysolophus pictus</i>
27	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
28	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>
29	Brown Dipper	<i>Cinclus pallasii</i>
30	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
31	Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga clanga</i>
32	Snow Pigeon	<i>Columba leuconota</i>
33	Hill Pigeon	<i>Columba rupestris</i>
34	Great Parrotbill	<i>Conostoma aemodium</i>
35	Daurian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus dauurica</i>
36	Collared Crow	<i>Corvus torquatus</i>
37	Blue Eared Pheasant	<i>Crossoptilon auritum</i>
38	White Eared Pheasant	<i>Crossoptilon crossoptilon</i>
39	Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>
40	Azure-winged Magpie	<i>Cyanopica cyanus</i>
41	Grey-capped Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos canicapillus</i>
42	Darjeeling Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos darjellensis</i>
43	White-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>
44	Crimson-naped Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates cathpharius</i>
45	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>
46	Elegant bunting	<i>Emberiza elegans</i>
47	Godlewski's Bunting	<i>Emberiza godlewskii</i>
48	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>
49	Slaty Bunting	<i>Emberiza siemsseni</i>
50	Black-faced Bunting	<i>Emberiza spodocephala</i>
51	Little Forktail	<i>Enicurus scouleri</i>
52	Horned lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>
53	Saker Falcon	<i>Falco cherrug</i>
54	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>
55	Solitary Snipe	<i>Gallinago solitaria</i>
56	Grandala	<i>Grandala coelicolor</i>
57	Black-necked Crane	<i>Grus nigricollis</i>
58	Bearded Vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>
59	Himalayan Griffon	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>
60	White-tailed Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>
61	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>
62	Eurasian Crag-Martin	<i>Hirundo rupestris</i>
63	Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler	<i>Horornis fortipes</i>
64	Mountain Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes maclellandii</i>
65	Barred Laughingthrush	<i>Ianthocincla lunulatus</i>
66	Giant Laughingthrush	<i>Ianthocincla maximus</i>
67	Sukatchev's Laughingthrush	<i>Ianthocincla sukatschewi</i>
68	Tawny Fish Owl	<i>Ketupa flavipes</i>
69	Tibetan Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius giganteus</i>
70	Red-billed Leiothrix	<i>Leiothrix lutea</i>
71	White-browed Tit-Warbler	<i>Leptopoecile sophiae</i>

72	Twite	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>
73	Grey-crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes dichrous</i>
74	Great Barbet	<i>Megalaima virens</i>
75	Tibetan Lark	<i>Melanocorypha maxima</i>
76	Scaly-Sided Merganser	<i>Mergus squamatus</i>
77	Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola rufiventris</i>
78	Collared Grosbeak	<i>Mycerobas affinis</i>
79	White-winged Grosbeak	<i>Mycerobas carnipes</i>
80	Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>
81	Yellow-bellied Tit	<i>Pardaliparus venustulus</i>
82	Japanese Tit	<i>Parus minor</i>
83	Long-tailed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>
84	Rufous-vented Tit	<i>Periparus rubidiventris</i>
85	White-throated Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus aureus</i>
86	Daurian Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus aureus</i>
87	White-winged Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus erythrogaster</i>
88	Blue-fronted Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus frontalis</i>
89	Plumbeous Water-Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus fuliginosus</i>
90	Hodgson's Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus hodgsoni</i>
91	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
92	Kloss's Leaf-Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus ogilvie-grantii</i>
93	Pallas's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>
94	Black-rumped Magpie	<i>Pica bottanensis</i>
95	Oriental Magpie	<i>Pica serica</i>
96	Speckled Piculet	<i>Picumnus innominatus</i>
97	Pere David's Tit	<i>Poecile davidi</i>
98	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>
99	Sichuan Tit	<i>Poecile weigoldicus</i>
100	Black-streaked Scimitar Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus gravivox</i>
101	Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus ruficollis</i>
102	Striped Prinia	<i>Prinia striata</i>
103	Robin Accentor	<i>Prunella rubeculoides</i>
104	Hume's Ground Tit	<i>Pseudopodoces humilis</i>
105	Chinese Babax	<i>Pterorhinus lanceolatus</i>
106	Blyths Shrike-Babbler	<i>Pteruthius aeralatus</i>
107	Green Shrike-Babbler	<i>Pteruthius xanthochlorus</i>
108	Brown-breasted Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus xanthorrhous</i>
109	Rufous-necked Snowfinch	<i>Pyrgilauda ruficollis</i>
110	White-rumped Snowfinch	<i>Pyrgilauda taczanowskii</i>
111	Grey-headed Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula erythaca</i>
112	Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>
113	Grey Bushchat	<i>Saxicola ferrea</i>
114	Ashy-throated Parrotbill	<i>Sinosuthora alphonsianus</i>
115	Chestnut-vented Nuthatch	<i>Sitta nagaensis</i>
116	Collared Finchbill	<i>Spizixos semitorques</i>
117	Rufous-capped Babbler	<i>Stachyris ruficeps</i>
118	White-cheeked Starling	<i>Sturnus cineraceus</i>

119	Silky Starling	<i>Sturnus sericeus</i>
120	Yellow-browed Tit	<i>Sylviparus modestus</i>
121	Himalayan Bluetail	<i>Tarsiger rufilatus</i>
122	Temminck's Tragopan	<i>Tragopan temminckii</i>
123	Black-faced Laughingthrush	<i>Trochalopteron affine</i>
124	Elliot's Laughingthrush	<i>Trochalopteron elliotii</i>
125	Dusky Thrush	<i>Turdus euonmus</i>
126	Kessler's Thrush	<i>Turdus kessler</i>
127	Naumann's Thrush	<i>Turdus naumanni</i>
128	Chestnut Thrush	<i>Turdus rubrocanus</i>
129	Red-throated Thrush	<i>Turdus ruficollis</i>
130	Red-billed Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa erythrorhyncha</i>
131	White-collared Yuhina	<i>Yuhina diademata</i>
132	Black-chinned Yuhina	<i>Yuhina nigrimenta</i>

Pictures from Colm Vincent



Chinese Red Panda



Asiatic Black Bear



Chinese Mountain Cat (very well camouflage)



Northern Hog Badger



Tibetan Fox



Golden Snub-nosed Monkey



Tibetan Macaque



Plateau Pika



Himalayan Marmot



Pere David's Rock Squirrel



Swinhoe's Striped Squirrel



Chinese Goral



Sichuan Takin



Chinese Serow



Tibetan Gazelle



Reeves's Muntjac



Kessler's Thrush



Red-billed Leiothrix



Collared Grosbeak



Eurasian Hoopoe



Darjeeling Woodpecker



Little Owl



Tawny Fish Owl



Blood Pheasant



Tibetan Partridge



Ring-necked Pheasant



White-eared Pheasant



Black-necked Crane