

# Wild China – Sichuan's Birds & Mammals

Naturetrek Tour Report

3 - 18 December 2019

---



Pallas's Cat



Daurian Jackdaw



Takin



Red Panda

Report and images compiled by Barrie Cooper

---



Naturetrek

Mingledown Barn

Wolf's Lane

Chawton

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 3HJ

UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: [info@naturetrek.co.uk](mailto:info@naturetrek.co.uk)

W: [www.naturetrek.co.uk](http://www.naturetrek.co.uk)

Tour participants:       Barrie Cooper (leader), Roland Zeidler (Local Guide), with seven Naturetrek clients.

## Summary

Sichuan is noted for its spectacular scenery, fine food and wonderful wildlife – this trip had them all. We had excellent views of Red Panda, Golden Snub-nosed Monkey, Tibetan Fox, Wolf and a good range of other mammals and birds. One of the animals that always impresses people on this trip is the Takin, a remarkable beast that always provides great photos. However the outstanding highlight on this particular trip was the superb views and experience we had with a Pallas's Cat. We initially saw the cat walking up a ridge until it settled onto a sheltered ledge, where it could observe us and we could study it. We watched and photographed it for over an hour as it waited for the afternoon sun to go lower and to then watch it slowly walk up the hillside. Stealthily, it gradually walked up the hill as if in hunting mode. When it made its way to the top, it studied us once again before disappearing onto the other side of the ridge. It was a wonderful experience and particularly special to share this and other excellent moments with an enthusiastic, patient and humorous Naturetrek group. We had a privileged hour of time with a Pallas's Cat that will live long in the memory of all of us.

### Day 1

**Tuesday 3rd December**

Six of the group members arrived in good time for the Cathay flight from Heathrow to Hong Kong.

### Day 2

**Wednesday 4th December**

The connecting flight from Hong Kong to Chengdu arrived ahead of schedule. After clearing Immigration we met up with Roland, driver Zenzang (ZZ) and Sheelagh who had arrived earlier. From the airport car park we had our first Oriental Magpie and Eastern Buzzard. We arrived at our hotel in Dujiangyan at 14:30 after seeing species such as Light-vented Bulbul, White-cheeked and Red-billed Starlings, White Wagtail and Long-tailed Shrike. After a brief rest we made use of the remaining daylight and first visited the nearby river. Ruddy Shelduck, Eastern Spot-billed Duck and a few familiar ducks from Britain were on the river, plus Common Sandpiper with Sand Martins flying over. The nearby Plumbeous and White-capped Redstarts helped to remind us that we were actually in China. After scrutinising the river, we drove a few kilometres to look for some contrasting wildlife. The first wild mammal of the trip was a rather elusive Pallas's Squirrel. Birds weren't being very obliging but we did get brief views of Rufous-capped Babbler, David's Fulvetta, White-crowned Forktail and Grey-headed Woodpecker. The fading light made it difficult so we drove down to a restaurant near the hotel for our first Sichuan dinner that was enjoyed by all. We then retired for an early night to catch up on some well-needed sleep.

### Day 3

**Thursday 5th December**

After breakfast and checking out of the hotel, we drove a short distance to do some local birdwatching. The first site had some obliging Ashy-throated and Vinous-throated Parrotbills with a couple of Rufous-capped Babblers tagging along. White-browed Laughingthrush was also seen near the vehicles before we walked up the road to some woodland. A mixed flock had a good number of species including Yellow-bellied, Green-backed and Japanese Tits, Black-throated Bushtit, Rufous-faced Warbler, Fire-breasted Flowerpecker and Red-billed

Leiothrix. Further along we had brief views of Blue Whistling Thrush and Spotted Dove. A final place had Stripe-throated Yuhina and an Oriental Magpie Robin was seen near the road.

It was then time to drive to Labahe with a stop for a noodle lunch on the way. At the entrance to Labahe, a probable Small Tortoiseshell butterfly was taking advantage of the sunshine and soon after we met our first welcoming party of Tibetan Macaques. We arrived with enough time to take the shuttle bus up the mountain with the aim of trying to find a Red Panda. We were told there had been ten centimetres of snow in the morning but, fortunately, the roads were now clear and access was good, although the forest higher up the mountain was covered in snow. As soon as we got off the bus, two Spotted Nutcrackers were seen before they swiftly moved on. Apart from Eliot's Laughingthrushes, it was relatively quiet with few birds seen before a couple of Ravens flew over to bring us a bit of luck. First of all a Northern Goshawk was sitting on top of a tree on a distant ridge before the real excitement began. To our great delight a Red Panda was walking along a dry stream-bed and approaching the road where we stood. Everybody had great views of the panda as it made its way towards us and then crossed the road. Unfortunately the panda was limping and was reluctant to put its left rear foot on the ground. The injury would probably restrict its ability to climb trees for fruit at this time of year so Roland was going to report it in the hope that the panda could be captured for veterinary treatment and re-released. Having achieved our main objective, we then caught the final bus to return to the bottom of the road and our vehicles.

The evening spotlighting after dinner was successful and we soon spotted our first Red and White Giant Flying Squirrels with one of them taking a short flight. Several Samba and one Goral made up the rest of the mammal list while a Collared Scops Owl showed well near the road.

## Day 4

## Friday 6th December

It was to be a day when the wonders of modern science assisted this Naturetrek group. The day began well as we assembled in the car park to find a Wallcreeper roosting on the hotel. It became active while we watched it to reveal some of the crimson in its wing.

It was then a short drive to take the shuttle bus up the Er Lang Mountain again. We went to the end of the road and then scanned for wildlife. A flock of Grey-hooded Fulvettas next to the road was a good start. Roland used his heat detector to scan for any signs of activity on the forest slopes and he eventually picked something up. The animal was clearly moving up and down the hillside and it showed briefly before disappearing into cover with only Barrie and Pete managing to see it. It was a Red Panda and not a Giant as the two successful observers were hoping for. Nevertheless it was an encouraging beginning before we slowly walked down the road. A flock of hyperactive Fulvous Parrotbills paused long enough for everyone to appreciate their beauty before Roland's detector found another heat image that revealed it to be a sleeping Red Panda. This time everyone saw it, even though it had its back to us and we couldn't see the complete animal. Our patience was rewarded when it woke up and started feeding in the tree it had been sleeping in. We watched it feeding for a few minutes before it climbed down the tree and disappeared. The detector picked up the Red Panda further down the road and feeding on berries in another tree. It was a relief to find a healthy Red Panda in good viewing conditions before we moved on in search of other wildlife.

Not far from the panda site we also managed to see a Forest Musk Deer that was mainly hidden by bamboo and with only its head showing. Although bird activity was low, we did see some good birds including Grey-crested

Tit, Black-browed Bushtit and Rufous-breasted Accentor. During the afternoon a couple of Swinhoe's Striped Squirrels, some very obliging Grey-headed Bullfinches and Stripe-throated Yuhinas were some of the highlights. A Mountain Hawk Eagle was spotted by Alan and was then enjoyed by the rest of the group as it soared over a nearby ridge. A couple of distant male Samba entertained us for a while as they occasionally indulged in some head butting. On the stream below the road we had both species of Dipper and Little Forktail before taking the bus back down. The evening spotlight session was successful once again with several Chinese Serows and Gorals, a couple of Reeves' Muntjacs along with the usual Samba and Red and White Giant Flying Squirrels.

## Day 5

## Saturday 7th December

It was another bus ride to the end of the mountain road and then a slow walk down. Apart from the noise of the workmen constructing new buildings at the cable car terminus, it was very quiet. Bird activity was disappointingly low and it was sometime before we saw our first Elliot's Laughingthrushes and Blue Magpies for the day. A Swinhoe's Striped Squirrel provided a bit of activity before Roland's thermal imager picked up a Red Panda. Unfortunately it was quite distant on a forested hillside and only a few people saw it.

Later during the morning, the imager picked up another one that was sleeping but revealing only part of its back. While the rest of the group went in search of more pandas and wildlife, Sheelagh decided to stay close by and was rewarded by a few minutes of activity while the Red Panda moved into a tree to feed on some berries. A Eurasian Wren was the only new bird before we took a bus down the mountain and returned to the hotel for a short break. We then took the trail near the hotel to see what we could discover. It was relatively quiet despite lots of trees with berries, however a Perney's Long-nosed Squirrel sitting on a branch in the centre of a bush was the achievement of our main target. We reached a lake that was bird-free but there was a Goral on the other side to provide us with a decent daylight view. A Golden Eagle flew over and just before we left, a Sichuan Treecreeper appeared and showed well. We drove down the road to see if we could find something else, but the afternoon light was fading. However a Himalayan Bluetail showed reasonably well enabling Simon to get a decent photo of it. As the hotel was busy, we decided to take an early dinner and have a break before going out for the evening spotlighting session. A couple of Masked Palm Civets were feeding on berries in a tree next to the river close to the hotel. They were only intent on voraciously feeding on the berries, oblivious to their admirers on the other side of the river. One Serow and a couple of Muntjacs were seen along with more Red and White Giant Flying Squirrels, Gorals and Sambas.

## Day 6

## Sunday 8th December

Soon after we had completed loading the vehicles with the luggage, the Wallcreeper appeared in the same place as previously and a Spot-billed Duck was on the river. After a couple of minutes, the Wallcreeper disappeared behind the hotel, which was the cue for us to begin our journey to Wolong. The journey only lasted for a kilometre before we parked up and went for a productive walk. A Crimson-breasted Woodpecker obligingly perched at the top of a tree prior to a mixed flock of birds appearing. Oriental White-eye, Chestnut-vented Nuthatch, Chestnut Thrush, Yellow-cheeked and Green-backed Tits were some of the species passing through. A group of birds silhouetted in trees on a ridge were waxwings and thrushes but flew before positive identification, which was extremely frustrating. Spotted Laughingthrushes and Mountain Bulbuls did show well which was some small compensation. A Crested Goshawk was soaring over a ridge as we made our way back to the vehicles. It was now time to leave Labahe with Tian Quan our next stop to investigate its reservoir. A good

selection of waterbirds was around including a female Smew, Ferruginous Duck, Ruddy Shelduck and a pair of Common Goldeneye. An interesting first winter gull was eventually identified as a Heuglin's Gull, which is a good record. The nearby parkland had some interesting birds including Brown-flanked Bush Warbler, Pallas's Leaf Warbler and Black-throated Bushtit.

The journey continued with the next stop being at Dujiangyan. There was sufficient late afternoon light and bird activity for us to see a few more new species. First up were Great Barbet, Spot-breasted Parrotbill and a pair of Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush. A couple of Chinese Bamboo Partridge were typically skulking and difficult to see, but most people managed to get some type of view through a scope. On the way back to the vehicles a Blue Whistling Thrush flew across the track and two Pallas's Squirrels were silhouetted in a tree but quite active.

## Day 7

## Monday 9th December

It was a clear sky as we set off in the dark for the drive up the mountain known as Balang Shan. The road was icy in parts but there were no delays and we made our first stop at over three thousand metres just as it was getting light. As soon as we got out of the vehicles, a Chinese Monal flew over and was quickly followed by another. We soon found them after carefully scanning the area where they appeared to land. We had excellent scope views of three Chinese Monals enabling us to fully appreciate their stunning plumage, with the early morning sun really bringing out the iridescence. It was a wonderful start to the day to see such a difficult and beautiful bird. Just a short distance up the road some White-winged Grosbeaks gave us good views, as did a flock of Snow Pigeons that regularly flew past. The first vulture of the day was a Black Vulture and it wasn't long before our first Himalayan Vulture and Lammergeier. Two Gorals provided some contrast to the birds but six Tibetan Partridges, which were first spotted by Pete, were perhaps of more interest to some. A bird everyone wanted to see was Grandala and we weren't disappointed when a flock of approximately two thousand were flying in a valley below us with the blue males contrasting with the brown females. The blue of the males was particularly noticeable against the dark forest background of the opposite hillside. Giant Laughingthrush, Pink-rumped Rosefinch, Red-billed and Yellow-billed Choughs were more species seen before lunch.

Our lunch location was good for squirrels with a Pere David's Rock Squirrel crossing the road before a Swinhoe's Striped Squirrel posed on a tree. A group of twelve Collared Grosbeaks descended into trees on the hillside above us but were away before we had the chance to get scopes on them. Some active White-browed Fulvettas occasionally paused long enough for the photographers to grab a few snaps, but Chinese Fulvettas were even less obliging. A couple of Rufous-breasted Accentors showed well with some Pink-rumped Rosefinches. A Golden Eagle soared over the pass and suddenly stooped as if going for a chough before pulling out and continuing on its way. Our final quest of the day was to find another pheasant so we stopped on the road to scan the mountain below us. We were delighted when a couple of White Eared Pheasants were spotted feeding on berries in a tree. Close by in an open grassy area there were more and over the next few minutes several appeared, bringing the total to twenty-four White Eared Pheasants.

We drove down the winding mountain road and found a vantage point where we could get closer views. Everyone could appreciate the beauty of the pheasant, providing perfect symmetry to a day when pheasants were the beginning and ending. It was then time to head back to Wolong for dinner.



## Day 8

## Tuesday 10th December

Today was a long driving day from Wolong to Ruoeregai but we began with a walk near a Buddhist monastery. We had a very pleasant walk and saw some interesting species including Chinese Babax, Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, Grey-hooded Fulvetta, Yellow-browed Tit, Rufous-vented Tit, Coal Tit and Dark-rumped Rosefinch. Forty Grandalas were actively feeding on berries but the possible highlight was close views of a pair of Spotted Laughingthrushes.

It was then time to commence our journey to the Tibetan Plateau but it wasn't long before we stopped at the old Giant Panda breeding centre in Wolong. We didn't see any black and white pandas, but we did see five Red Pandas in trees, including one with a rather blond tail. Good numbers of Hill Pigeons were of interest as we gained altitude but the relatively close sight of ten Blue-eared Pheasants was a real bonus. A stop to view an area of bushes brought us White-browed Tit Warbler, Gldenstdt's Redstart, Plain Laughingthrush, Robin Accentor and Azure-winged Magpie. The plateau brought the sight of thousands of Yak grazing and overlooked by their herdsmen.

After checking into the hotel and having dinner we went for some local spotlighting at a temperature of minus ten degrees celsius, and saw three Woolly Hares and four Red Foxes.

## Day 9

## Wednesday 11th December

It was an early start for a drive to a particularly rich part of the Tibetan plateau. The grasslands here support an amazing amount of biodiversity with the quantity of raptors being an indicator of the richness. The temperature was minus fifteen degrees celsius. We parked the vehicles then walked to a couple of vantage points overlooking a quarry and an area of grassland. It didn't take long before we saw our first Tibetan Foxes, one of which was seen to catch and then cache a Plateau Pika. A few Tibetan Gazelles were easy to see in the early morning light, but a Wolf walking below was particularly exciting. We watched the wolf for ten minutes as it casually made its way to a ridge and out of sight, occasionally looking back to check on its admirers with binoculars, scopes and cameras pointed at it. Himalayan and Upland Buzzards were appearing, as were Sakers, two of which were perched on a radio mast. White-rumped and Rufous-necked Snowfinches were numerous and a few Ground Tits gave close views. A male Hen Harrier looked absolutely stunning as it flew over with the early sunlight really bringing out its beauty. What a start and we hadn't eaten breakfast yet!

The picnic breakfast was taken with wildlife frequently halting proceedings. It was then time to drive to another quarry, passing Steppe Eagles and Buzzards on posts and a flying female Hen Harrier. Lammergeier, Himalayan and Black Vultures all gave good views. A walk to a viewpoint enabled us to find two groups of Blue Sheep with some males providing good views in the valley below. A pair of Golden Eagles showed well but then another pair appeared and started displaying, so we had two pairs within just a few hundred metres of each other. We returned to the quarry where we had breakfast and had lunch there, but no cats were visible. A return to the second quarry was next and we found our target – Pallas's Cat. After walking a little way up the hill, it settled into a hollow beneath a rock and then watched us while we watched it. The cat was clearly comfortable with us watching it from the track as it perused its admirers below and any avian predators above. Its eyes became more fully open as shadow eventually enveloped its ledge and it was able to gaze wide-eyed on the beautiful plateau. As the sun moved lower in the sky the cat decided to move on and we watched it slowly, stealthily move up the hill

in search of food. It had the habit of repeatedly shaking the tip of its tail, an interesting piece of behaviour. Eventually the cat moved up to the ridge where we watched it crawl along before finally disappearing. We had been watching the Pallas's Cat for over an hour, one of the special, privilege moments that wildlife watching can bring. We returned to the first quarry, but no cats, so it was time to do some spotlighting. Incredibly we had another Wolf plus several Tibetan Foxes. An Eagle Owl was another species in the spotlight, making this a truly amazing day. To complete the day we saw Saturn's rings in the scope, Venus and the International Space Station. What a day!

## Day 10

## Thursday 12th December

The temperature was minus thirteen degrees celsius as we set off on the thirty-minute drive to the Baozuo forest where it was just getting light when we arrived. A Tufted Deer on a hillside was the first notable sighting, swiftly followed by our first Godlewski's Buntings. The valley has its own microclimate and it was cold and cloudy for the first couple of hours making bird activity low. A walk in the forest enabled us to find Thomas's Pikas. Our first real bird activity was a flock of Przevalski's Nuthatches and Rufous-vented Tits. Roadside bushes had Chinese Fulvetas, Pink-rumped and White-browed Rosefinches. There were plenty of Giant Laughingthrushes, and both accentors. Snow was falling when a Sichuan Tit was seen near the road as we were heading back up the hill and a couple of Azure-winged Magpies were near the river. Fortunately it had stooped snowing when we arrived back in Ruoregai for lunch.

An afternoon drive had a range of birds including Plain Mountain Finch, Twite, Rock Sparrow, larks, White-browed Tit and Tibetan Fox. The evening spotlighting only had Woolly Hares and Red Foxes.

## Day 11

## Friday 13th December

It was only minus eleven degrees when we set off to return to the Baozuo forest. Once again it was relatively quiet initially before we went for a walk up a forested valley. Three Blue Eared Pheasants were feeding out in a clearing with berries appearing to be a part of their menu. There were a few Giant Laughingthrushes making their presence obvious, but unfortunately the vocal Snowy-cheeked Laughingthrushes remained hidden. A Siberian Roe Deer was grazing near the top of a ridge but disappeared before some of the group saw it. Likewise only a few managed to get a brief view of some Blood Pheasants before they disappeared into the forest. There were the usual rosefinches and accentors and a pair of White-browed Tit Warblers feeding in the bushes near the path before we returned to the vehicles to begin our journey to Pingwu.

The journey was through some stunning gorges and everyone appreciated the scenery. Some of the interesting species seen included two groups of Daurian Jackdaws, a Golden Eagle and the occupants of one vehicle saw a Siberian Roe Deer.

## Day 12

## Saturday 14th December

Breakfast was taken around the corner from the hotel and a group of Black-throated Bushtits were outside as we left. It was then a short drive to the forest above Pingwu. Brown-breasted Bulbuls and Russet Sparrows were the first new birds, swiftly followed by a Black-faced Bunting. Little and Godlewski's Buntings provided good views, as did several Mountain Bulbuls. Bird activity was good on most of the areas we visited with Spot-breasted and

Vinous-throated Parrotbills, Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler, Yellow-streaked Warbler, White-collared and Black-chinned Yuhinas. A male Vinaceous Rosefinch, a Speckled Piculet and Spectacled Fulvettas received several compliments for their beauty. New species seemed to be coming all the time with a very obliging male Slaty Bunting preceding a brief sighting of a Rufous-capped Babbler.

After a fruitful couple of hours, it was time to begin our journey to Tangjiahe. One of the targets on this journey is Collared Crow and two obliging individuals were seen near a river that was undergoing a lot of man-made changes. Soon after entering Tangjiahe, we scanned the forested slopes and found our target – Golden Snub-nosed Monkeys. Four were showing quite well on the hill and then another four that were much closer were found. Very good views were gained with one sitting in full view appearing to be just relaxing while two others engaged in some mutual preening. They were all old males as the warts around their mouths are an indicator of growing maturity. Everybody was delighted to have such privileged views. At the same viewing spot, two Takins were also seen well making it an excellent double. Further up the valley we also had our first Crested Kingfisher and Wild Boar, with a Little Forktail on the river. A pre-dinner spotlight session gave us good views of a Tufted Deer and several Reeves' Muntjacs.

After dinner, the highlight of the spotlighting was a Chinese Ferret Badger, plus the usual Wild Boar, Muntjacs and Takins.

## Day 13

## Sunday 15th December

After an early breakfast, we drove down to the junction of the two roads in the park and proceeded to walk up the East road in advance of the shuttle bus that was to pick us up. Muntjacs had been seen regularly as we began our walk. Pere David's Rock Squirrels were seen a few times along the road. Grey-capped Woodpecker and the Chinese subspecies of Great-spotted Woodpecker were seen quite well. Eventually the shuttle bus arrived and we made our way to the end of the road and commenced our hike up to the border with Gansu province. Soon after we started the hike, we met a flock of Sooty Bushtits and a couple of Yellow-browed Tits, we later had another flock accompanied by Chestnut-vented Nuthatches. Excellent views of a Tufted Deer on the other side of the river was one of the highlights as it stood staring at us and serving the dual purpose of posing for photos. A Goral was on the hillside above it. A flock of David's and Spectacled Fulvettas were not quite as obliging as the Sooty Bushtits. Vocal Black-faced Laughingthrushes only provided flight views, but a couple of Spotted Nutcrackers were more obliging. Reasonable views of two male and one female Golden Pheasants was the birding highlight of the walk. Overall, it was relatively quiet so we made our way to catch the shuttle bus back down the road.

The evening spotlighting produced good views of three Malayan Porcupines. A Small-toothed Ferret-badger almost went under the wheels of the first vehicle and wasn't seen by the occupants, however those in the second vehicle had good views of the fortunate beast that survived to find a safe place. The usual Takins, Wild Boar and Reeves' Muntjac, plus a Goral were also seen.

## Day 14

## Monday 16th December

Having failed to find a Tragopan the previous day, Alan, Pete and Gill elected to return to the trail to try again with Barrie. Angela, Simon, Sheelagh and Roger went with Roland to walk in other areas of the park. Before we



went our separate ways, a Golden Eagle showed well over the shuttle bus car park and then another one appeared on the other side of the valley. Those in search of the Tragopan weren't disappointed, with a female watched for over thirty minutes, feeding and preening in an area of bamboo. In the same area, two male Golden Pheasants were seen well and another was seen further down the trail. Two White-backed Woodpeckers were in the Tragopan area and one of them was studied for several minutes pecking away low down on a tree. Two Giant Parrotbills, Sooty Tits, Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, two Collared Grosbeaks, Goldcrests and a few Swinhoe's Striped Squirrels were all in the same area. Two Tufted Deer also gave good views, one of which was just twenty metres away and was so comfortable with us it carried on grazing having decided we weren't a threat.

The other group had various mammals and birds, including Hodgson's Treecreeper. Once both groups met up for a drive down the road, a Rhesus Monkey was found sitting in a tree. The highlight of the evening spotlighting was four Hog Badgers, all of which provided good views. The usual supporting cast followed.

## Day 15

## Tuesday 17th December

After loading up the vehicles with our luggage we went for a short walk along the river near the hotel, but it was quiet so it was decided to drive down the road and leave Tangjiahe. We had probably only gone a couple of kilometres from the hotel when a Golden Snub-nosed Monkey ran across the road and was almost hit by the first vehicle. We immediately jumped out of the vehicles to find a troop of Golden Snub-nosed Monkeys passing through the trees. It was an incredible sight with several young in the group that must have numbered between fifteen and twenty. We watched them for a couple of minutes, demonstrating their remarkable agility as they moved through the trees and were gone. If there was an example of being in the right place at the right time for an amazing wildlife experience then this was it. If we had been a minute later we would have been totally unaware that we were driving past this stunning creature. It was an awesome sighting and typical of some of the luck we had during the trip. We had seen the Golden Snub-nosed Monkeys as we arrived and as we left Tangjiahe, which is incredibly lucky.

We went for another walk before exiting completely and had good views of Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker and the Chinese subspecies of Great-spotted Woodpecker. White-crowned Forktail, Slaty Bunting, Green-backed Tit and Takin were some other species seen. The long drive to Chengdu was broken by a few stops for birding and lunch. An Asian Barred Owlet showed very well and was new for the trip. A few other interesting species included Spot-breasted Parrotbill, Daurian Redstart, Rufous-breasted Accentor, Crested Kingfisher and Collared Crow. We negotiated the traffic and eventually arrived at our hotel. Our final dinner with Roland and ZZ was a time to give our grateful thanks at the end of a superb trip full of fantastic memories. .

## Day 16

## Wednesday 18th December

The flight from Chengdu to Hong Kong arrived on time. The connecting flight to the UK brought an end to a very rewarding trip to Sichuan.

## Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek e-mailing list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers. Visit [www.naturetrek.co.uk](http://www.naturetrek.co.uk) to sign up.

## Species Lists

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	E = Endemic; N = Near Endemic; I = Introduced		December													
	Common name	Scientific name	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	12				2				2					
2	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	10				✓									
3	Eastern Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas zonorhyncha</i>	14				✓									✓
4	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓				✓	2	✓				3			✓
5	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	2													
6	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	4													
7	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>					✓									
8	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>					✓									
9	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>					✓									
10	Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>					2									
11	Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>					1									
12	Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	4						✓							
13	Tibetan Partridge	<i>Perdix hodgsoniae</i>						6								
14	Chinese Bamboo Partridge - E	<i>Bambusicola thoracicus</i>		H			2									
15	Blood Pheasant	<i>Ithaginis cruentus</i>						H			4					
16	Temminck's Tragopan	<i>Tragopan temminckii</i>													1	
17	Chinese Monal - E	<i>Lophophorus lhuysii</i>						3								
18	White Eared Pheasant - E	<i>Crossoptilon crossoptilon</i>						24								
19	Blue Eared Pheasant - E	<i>Crossoptilon auritum</i>							10		3					
20	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		1					2			3				
21	Golden Pheasant - E	<i>Chrysolophus pictus</i>												3	3	
22	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>					✓	✓								✓
23	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>					✓									
24	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>					✓									
25	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓	✓			✓						1			✓
26	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>					2									
27	Bearded Vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>						✓		✓						
28	Himalayan Vulture	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>						✓		✓	✓					
29	Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>						2		✓	✓					

	E = Endemic; N = Near Endemic; I = Introduced		December													
	Common name	Scientific name	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
30	Mountain Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus nipalensis</i>			1											
31	Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>								5						
32	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>				1		1		4	2	1		1	2	
33	Crested Goshawk	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>					1									
34	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>						2	2	1						
35	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>		1												
36	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>								2	6					
37	Upland Buzzard	<i>Buteo hemilasius</i>								✓	✓					
38	Eastern Buzzard	<i>Buteo japonicus</i>	2	✓		1		✓		✓	✓	1	✓			✓
39	Himalayan Buzzard	<i>Buteo burmanicus</i>						✓		✓	✓					
40	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>					✓									
41	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>					✓									✓
42	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		✓												
43	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	4													2
44	Heuglin's Gull	<i>Larus heuglini</i>					1									
45	Hill Pigeon	<i>Columba rupestris</i>							✓	✓						
46	Snow Pigeon	<i>Columba leuconota</i>						✓		✓						
47	Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>		✓												✓
48	Collared Scops Owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>		1												
49	Eurasian Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>								1						
50	Asian Barred Owlet	<i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i>														1
51	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>							1	2	1					
52	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>					1									
53	Crested Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle lugubris</i>											1		2	1
54	Great Barbet	<i>Psilopogon virens</i>						1								
55	Speckled Piculet	<i>Picumnus innominatus</i>											1			
56	Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Yungipicus canicapillus</i>				1			1					2	7	3
57	Crimson-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates cathpharius</i>					1									
58	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>												3	1	2
59	White-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>													2	1
60	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>	1	1							1					
61	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>						2		2	2					

	E = Endemic; N = Near Endemic; I = Introduced		December													
	Common name	Scientific name	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
62	Saker Falcon	<i>Falco cherrug</i>								8						
63	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	1	✓			✓					✓				✓
64	Azure-winged Magpie	<i>Cyanopica cyanus</i>							✓		2	3				
65	Red-billed Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa erythroryncha</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							✓	✓	✓
66	Oriental Magpie	<i>Pica serica</i>	✓									✓	✓	✓		✓
67	Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>		✓	✓	✓								✓	✓	
68	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
69	Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>						✓								
70	Daurian Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus dauuricus</i>										18				
71	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>							✓				✓			✓
72	Collared Crow	<i>Corvus torquatus</i>											2			2
73	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
74	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		2				✓		✓	✓	✓				
75	Yellow-browed Tit	<i>Sylviparus modestus</i>							2					2	2	
76	Rufous-vented Tit	<i>Periparus rubidiventris</i>							✓		✓					
77	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>							1					✓	✓	
78	Yellow-bellied Tit - E	<i>Pardaliparus venustulus</i>		2												
79	Yellow-cheeked Tit	<i>Machlolophus spilonotus</i>					1									
80	Grey Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes dichrous</i>			✓				2							
81	White-browed Tit - E	<i>Poecile superciliosus</i>									3					
82	Sichuan Tit - E	<i>Poecile weigoldicus</i>									1					
83	Ground Tit	<i>Pseudopodoces humilis</i>								✓	✓					
84	Japanese Tit	<i>Parus minor</i>		✓	✓						✓		✓		✓	✓
85	Green-backed Tit	<i>Parus monticolus</i>		✓			✓		✓				✓		✓	✓
86	Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>									✓					
87	Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris elwesi</i>								✓	✓					
88	Tibetan Lark	<i>Melanocorypha maxima</i>									2					
89	Collared Finchbill	<i>Spizixos semitorques</i>	H	✓			✓						✓	✓		✓
90	Brown-breasted Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus xanthorrhous</i>											✓	✓		
91	Light-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus sinensis</i>	✓	✓								✓	✓			✓
92	Mountain Bulbul	<i>Ixos maclellandii</i>					✓						✓			
93	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	✓													

	E = Endemic; N = Near Endemic; I = Introduced		December													
	Common name	Scientific name	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
94	Rufous-faced Warbler	<i>Abroscopus albogularis</i>		✓												
95	Brown-flanked Bush Warbler	<i>Horornis fortipes</i>					1									
96	Aberrant Bush Warbler	<i>Horornis flavolivaceus</i>					1						1			
97	Black-throated Bushtit	<i>Aegithalos concinnus</i>		✓			✓						✓		✓	
98	Black-browed Bushtit	<i>Aegithalos bonvaloti</i>			✓											
99	Sooty Bushtit - E	<i>Aegithalos fuliginosus</i>												✓	✓	
100	White-browed Tit-Warbler	<i>Leptopoecile sophiae</i>							2		2	2				
101	Pallas's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>					2									
102	Yellow-streaked Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus armandii</i>											1			
103	Striated Prinia	<i>Prinia crinigera</i>											1			
104	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>					1									
105	Black-streaked Scimitar Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus gravivox</i>	H										1			
106	Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus ruficollis</i>	H			H	✓									
107	Rufous-capped Babbler	<i>Stachyridopsis ruficeps</i>	✓	✓									1			
108	David's Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe davidi</i>	✓				✓							✓	✓	
109	Chinese Babax	<i>Babax lanceolatus</i>							8							
110	Snowy-cheeked Laughingthrush - E	<i>Garrulax sukatschewi</i>										H				
111	Barred Laughingthrush - E	<i>Garrulax lunulatus</i>							2					2	1	
112	Giant Laughingthrush - E	<i>Garrulax maximus</i>						✓			✓	✓				
113	Spotted Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax ocellatus</i>					4									
114	White-throated Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax albogularis</i>													H	
115	Plain Laughingthrush - E	<i>Garrulax davidi</i>							3		✓	✓				
116	White-browed Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax sannio</i>	H	✓												
117	Elliot's Laughingthrush - E	<i>Trochalopteron elliotii</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
118	Black-faced Laughingthrush	<i>Trochalopteron affine</i>												✓	✓	
119	Red-billed Leiothrix	<i>Leiothrix lutea</i>				✓	✓						✓		✓	
120	White-browed Fulvetta	<i>Fulvetta vinipectus</i>						6								
121	Chinese Fulvetta - E	<i>Fulvetta striaticollis</i>						4			✓					
122	Spectacled Fulvetta - E	<i>Fulvetta ruficapilla</i>											✓	✓		
123	Grey-hooded Fulvetta - E	<i>Fulvetta cinereiceps</i>			✓				✓							
124	Great Parrotbill	<i>Conostoma aemodium</i>													2	
125	Vinous-throated Parrotbill	<i>Sinosuthora webbiana</i>	H	✓									✓			

	E = Endemic; N = Near Endemic; I = Introduced		December													
	Common name	Scientific name	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
126	Ashy-throated Parrotbill - E	<i>Sinosuthora alphonsiana</i>		✓												
127	Fulvous Parrotbill	<i>Suthora fulvifrons</i>			✓											
128	Spot-breasted Parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis guttaticollis</i>					✓						✓			✓
129	Stripe-throated Yuhina	<i>Yuhina gularis</i>		✓	✓		✓									
130	White-collared Yuhina	<i>Yuhina diademata</i>											✓			✓
131	Black-chinned Yuhina	<i>Yuhina nigrimenta</i>											✓			
132	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		2					2						2	1
133	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>				1							1			
134	Chestnut-vented Nuthatch	<i>Sitta nagaensis</i>			1		✓							✓	✓	
135	Przevalski's Nuthatch - E	<i>Sitta przewalskii</i>									12					
136	Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>			1		1									
137	Hodgson's Treecreeper	<i>Certhia hodgsoni</i>													2	1
138	Sichuan Treecreeper - E	<i>Certhia tianquanensis</i>				1									1	
139	Crested Myna	<i>Acridotheres cristatellus</i>		✓			✓						✓			✓
140	Red-billed Starling	<i>Spodiopsar sericeus</i>	✓	✓												
141	White-cheeked Starling	<i>Spodiopsar cineraceus</i>	✓				✓				✓					
142	Grandala	<i>Grandala coelicolor</i>						2000	40							
143	Chinese Blackbird	<i>Turdus mandarinus</i>	✓	✓			✓									
144	Chestnut Thrush	<i>Turdus rubrocanus</i>					✓	✓								
145	Himalayan Bluetail	<i>Tarsiger rufilatus</i>				1	1		1							
146	Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>		1												
147	Little Forktail	<i>Enicurus scouleri</i>			2								1		3	
148	White-crowned Forktail	<i>Enicurus leschenaulti</i>	1			1								3	1	1
149	Blue Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>		1			1						2			
150	Hodgson's Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus hodgsoni</i>	1				4									
151	Daurian Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus aureoreus</i>												3		
152	Güldenstädt's Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus erythrogastrus</i>							2	2	✓	✓				
153	Blue-fronted Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus frontalis</i>		1	1											
154	Plumbeous Water Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus fuliginosus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	
155	White-capped Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus leucocephalus</i>	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	
156	Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola rufiventris</i>					2						1			
157	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>			1	1										



	E = Endemic; N = Near Endemic; I = Introduced		December													
	Common name	Scientific name	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
158	Brown Dipper	<i>Cinclus pallasii</i>			2	6							✓	✓	✓	✓
159	Fire-breasted Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum ignipectus</i>		1												
160	Russet Sparrow	<i>Passer rutilans</i>											✓			
161	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	✓	✓								✓	✓			✓
162	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>										✓				
163	White-rumped Snowfinch	<i>Onychostruthus taczanowskii</i>									✓	✓				
164	Rufous-necked Snowfinch	<i>Pyrgilauda ruficollis</i>									✓					
165	White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>					✓						✓			
166	Robin Accentor	<i>Prunella rubeculoides</i>							2	2	40	✓				
167	Rufous-breasted Accentor	<i>Prunella strophiata</i>			1			3	4		40	✓	✓			2
168	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>					1									1
169	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓	✓
170	Collared Grosbeak	<i>Mycerobas affinis</i>						12							2	
171	White-winged Grosbeak	<i>Mycerobas carripes</i>						6								
172	Grey-headed Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula erythaca</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓					✓		
173	Plain Mountain Finch	<i>Leucosticte nemoricola</i>										✓				
174	Chinese Beautiful Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus davidianus</i>							1			✓				
175	Pink-rumped Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus waltoni</i>						12			✓	✓				
176	Sharpe's Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus verreauxii</i>														
177	Vinaceous Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus vinaceus</i>	H										2			
178	Long-tailed Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus sibiricus</i>							✓							
179	Dark-rumped Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus edwardsii</i>							2							
180	Chinese White-browed Rosefinch - E	<i>Carpodacus dubius</i>						1			6	✓				
181	Grey-capped Greenfinch	<i>Chloris sinica</i>	12	✓									3			
182	Twite	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>									✓	✓				
183	Slaty Bunting - E	<i>Emberiza siemsseni</i>											1		4	4
184	Pine Bunting	<i>Emberiza leucocephalos</i>								1						
185	Godlewski's Bunting	<i>Emberiza godlewskii</i>									12	✓	✓			
186	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>											3			2
187	Black-faced Bunting	<i>Emberiza spodocephala</i>											1			

Common name	Scientific name	December														
		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	

## Mammals

E = Endemic; N = Near Endemic; I = Introduced		December														
Common name	Scientific name	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
1	Rhesus Monkey	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>												1		
2	Milne-edwards' Macaque - E	<i>Macaca thibetana</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	
3	Golden Snub-nosed Monkey - E	<i>Rhinopithecus roxellana</i>										8			17	
4	Woolly Hare	<i>Lepus oiostolus</i>								3		12				
5	Plateau Pika	<i>Ochotona curzoniae</i>								✓		✓				
6	Thomas's Pika	<i>Ochotona thomasi</i>									2					
7	Pallas's Squirrel - I	<i>Callosciurus erythraeus</i>	1					2								
8	Perny's Long-nosed Squirrel	<i>Dremomys pernyi</i>					1									
9	Red And White Giant Flying Squirrel	<i>Petaurista alborufus</i>		✓	✓	✓										
10	PŽre David's Rock Squirrel	<i>Sciurotamias davidianus</i>							1			✓	7	2	1	
11	Swinhoe's Striped Squirrel	<i>Tamiops swinhoei</i>			2	1		1					1	8		
12	Malayan Porcupine	<i>Hystrix brachyura</i>											3			
13	Pallas's Cat	<i>Otocolobus manul</i>								1						
14	Masked Palm Civet	<i>Paguma larvata</i>				2										
15	Gray Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>								2						
16	Tibetan Fox	<i>Vulpes ferrilata</i>								10	✓					
17	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>							4	✓	✓					
18	Red Panda	<i>Ailurus fulgens</i>		1	2	2										
19	Hog Badger	<i>Arctonyx collaris</i>													4	
20	Small-toothed Ferret-badger	<i>Melogale moschata</i>										1	1			
21	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>										7	✓	✓		
22	Forest Musk Deer	<i>Moschus berezovskii</i>		1	1											
23	Siberian Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus pygargus</i>									2					
24	Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>		✓												
25	Sika Deer	<i>Cervus nippon</i>									1					
26	Tufted Deer - E	<i>Elaphodus cephalophus</i>									1	1	2	2		
27	Reeves' Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>			2	2						✓	✓	✓	✓	
28	Sambar	<i>Rusa unicolor</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
29	Takin	<i>Budorcas taxicolor</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓	
30	Chinese Serow	<i>Capricornis milneedwardsii</i>			5	1								2		

E = Endemic; N = Near Endemic; I = Introduced			December													
	Common name	Scientific name	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
31	Chinese Goral	<i>Naemorhedus griseus</i>		1	5	6		2						2	✓	
32	Tibetan Gazelle - N	<i>Procapra picticaudata</i>								✓						
33	Bharal	<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>								41						

## Social Media

We’re social! Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and be the first to hear about the launch of new tours, offers and exciting sightings and photos from our recently returned holidays.



[www.facebook.com/naturetrekwildlifeholidays](http://www.facebook.com/naturetrekwildlifeholidays)



[www.twitter.com/naturetrektours](http://www.twitter.com/naturetrektours)



[www.instagram.com/naturetrek\\_wildlife\\_holidays](http://www.instagram.com/naturetrek_wildlife_holidays)



Godlewski's Bunting



Tufted Deer



Robin Accentor



Swinhoe's Striped Squirrel