









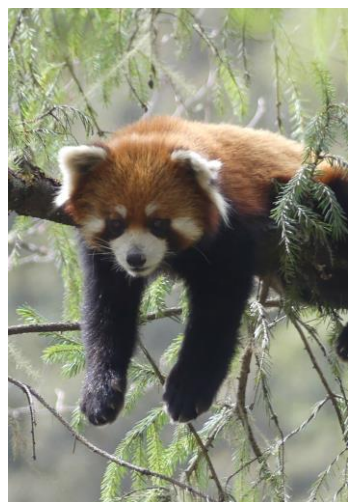
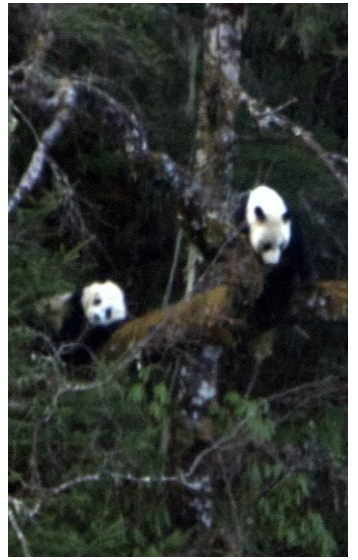


# Sichuan Mammal Tour

**Destination:** Sichuan, China    **Duration:** 15 Days    **Dates:** 7<sup>th</sup> Apr – 21<sup>st</sup> Apr 2019

-  Having sightings of 3 different Giant Pandas – including 2 in a tree for over 1 hour
-  Enjoying the expertise of one of China's best naturalist guide and a zoologist
-  Spotlighting views of Asiatic Black Bear along with brief Chinese Ferret Badger
-  Trekking & scanning deep inside core Panda habitat in our secret reserve
-  An amazing 24 hours with Tibetan Wolves (3 different packs seen close and well)
-  Seeing a huge number and diversity of Raptors in Rouergai grasslands
-  Multiple Chinese Mountain Cats & Pallas's Cat sightings in daylight & night time
-  Spotting and observing an impressive 42 species of mammals throughout
-  A crazy 1hr with 2 Giant Pandas were spotted & Martin had an Asiatic Golden Cat
-  Watching a male Giant Panda feeding in the forest through the telescope



## Tour Leader / Guides

Martin Royle (Royle Safaris Tour Leader)  
Fuguei (Ya'an Guide)  
Sid (Rouergai & Tangjiahe Guide)

## Participants

Mr. Samuel Marlin  
Mrs. Marie-Pierre Marlin  
Mr. Noel Jeannot

## Overview

<b>Day 1:</b>	Chengdu / Rouergai
<b>Days 2-3:</b>	Rouergai
<b>Days 4-9:</b>	Wolong / Wa'an Region
<b>Days 10:</b>	Dujiangyang
<b>Days 11-13:</b>	Tangjiahe
<b>Day 14:</b>	Foping
<b>Day 15:</b>	Foping /Chengdu



# Day by Day Breakdown

## Overview

Thinking of China and associating it with wildlife will most likely lead to images of Giant Pandas, the black and white bamboo munching bears have become as much an icon of China as they have conservation. They are in the wild doing quite well, after years of protection and some recent reintroductions the numbers of wild giant pandas has increased to around 2,000. Still a low number but much higher than previously estimated. However seeing one is incredibly difficult. Not just are they elusive, live high up in near inaccessible mountains and surrounded by incredibly thick bamboo; but the Chinese have consciously clamped down on people visiting reserves where pandas inhabit on specific panda trips. In fact the best place in the world (Foping) is closed to foreigners looking for this species since 2006.

But there is so much more than giant pandas in China, the mountains, grasslands and forests of Sichuan are a treasure trove of wildlife particularly mammals.

This tour focuses on 3 areas, the most exciting being an exploratory trip which heads deep into the heart of panda habitat, we cannot be specific on this report as to exactly where but it is somewhere in the Wa'an region. This is home to a huge area of prime panda habitat and is home to a large population of wild giant pandas. We would begin our mammal trip here, Scouring and hiking the hills and bamboo forests here for wildlife, particularly giant pandas. The huge area here has some interesting species known from it including 6 species of cats and 2 species of bears. However seeing any of these species would be tough; but what a great way to start our Chinese mammal trip.

We also visit two very different habitats, one that is the border of Sichuan and the Tibetan Plateau, higher in elevation than anywhere else on this trip we would be searching the vast rolling grasslands for wildlife such as Tibetan foxes and most intriguing the funny looking Pallas's cat and its cousin the Chinese mountain cat.

And the other is the wonderful forested hills of Tangjiahe, here a wealth of life from flying squirrels, leopard cats, serow, hog badgers and many more wonderful species can be seen.

We will end the trip with a visit to another area (part of Foping which is still open to the public) near Xi'an. This pre-trip extension is specifically for trying to see the endemic and very unusual looking golden snub-nosed monkey.

Travelling around these three very different habitats and spending days and nights searching for elusive mammals we aim to showcase a part of China that many people do not associate, wild China, remote and rugged China, the kind of China where the pandas and other animals still have their home and live out their lives oblivious to the ultra-modern mega cities and massive urban sprawl that is enveloping the country at some a rapid rate. But the development of China has one potential and little thought about benefit for the wilderness areas, as China becomes more and more westernised, people are flocking to the cities in huge numbers and hopefully if managed correctly this could lead to protected rural areas increase their areas.



### Day 1 **Chengdu / Ruogai**

### *Arrival, Travelling & Wildlife Watching*

This morning Sid and Martin met Samuel, Marie-Pierre & Noel at the airport in Chengdu and departed straight away to head to the high altitude grasslands of Ruogai. The drive is a long one and we were lucky with the weather, the beautiful clear skies allowed for some great views in the valleys and mountains as we climbed higher and higher towards the plateau. We stopped for lunch on the way and by the time we arrived it was the mid afternoon, we checked into the hotel and then went straight out that evening.

Along the way we had occasional sightings of the common species of the grassland here. Many birds included hill pigeons, Himalayan buzzard, red-billed chough, black-eared kites and also some of the first migratory black-necked cranes which are making their way back to the Plateau after wintering further south in places like Bhutan.

Along the main road and heading to the quarry site we had some views of a large black-lipped pika colony (which are everywhere here and the main reason for the abundance of raptors and mammal predators here) which was still active despite it being nearly dark, white-rumped snowfinches and a nice upland buzzard sighting.



We first visited the quarry which have had success in recent times with the two species of cat which are high targets here (Chinese mountain cat and Pallas's cat). The first mammalian predator of the abundant pika we saw was a Tibetan fox. There is a very healthy population of Tibetan foxes in the area and this one was seen running off as a herder and his flock of sheep was walking through.

We started scanning in the quarry and found some distant Tibetan gazelles on a ridge line and then Martin spotted a sleeping Chinese mountain cat. This cat was much closer, around 50m away from us just up on the ridge in and among some boulders. The cat was sleeping with its head down and tail tucked up underneath its body. The back was visible but it was not a fantastic view. After around 10 minutes we thought the cat was likely to stay in that position for a while and as the sun was setting we were losing light. So Samuel and Noel decided to move around the ridge and approach the cat from a different side to try and get close up views. Sid, Martin and Marie-Pierre stayed in the lower area and watched the cat. It began to stir a little, we were not sure it is was due to the movement or any noise from Samuel or Noel (but they seems too far away at first to cause any disturbance). But the cat did get up and the views from the lower area were very good as it lifted its head up a few times and then eventually got up and walked along the boulders before disappearing over the other side of the ridge and away.

Once this Chinese mountain cat had disappeared we left this area and scanned a second quarry a little further away, and nearly straight away Sid spotted a distant Pallas's cat. It looked like a large male and there was a large male known from this area, in fact on our trip just a couple of weeks ago here, we had seen a large male Pallas's cat close by here. We first spotted the cat on the top of the ridge over the quarry. It looked relaxed and comfortable and so we approached a little closer, but the light was fading and so we probably rushed closer a little too much and the cat moved away and we couldn't find it again. So we headed back towards the car and spotlighted along the way. We then drove a while spotlighting and found a lot of Tibetan foxes, a single red fox and a few woolly hares around. We also had a great view of an Asian badger near the road, it was stopped and watching us at first and then moved a little way away. We followed the Asian badger a little way as it walked parallel to the road a little way. As we turned around and headed back towards the hotel and just before getting back onto the main road we had a Chinese mountain cat lying down in some vegetation, the grass was quite long in this place and it didn't allow for very good views. It did get up and give us better views before it disappeared into the bushes and out of sight. A little while longer we had second views of probably the same Asian Badger and that was the last sighting of note before we returned to the hotel for the night.

Not a bad start to the trip at all!

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## Day 2      **Ruoergai**

## *Wildlife Watching*

This morning we rose and were out before dawn, we went straight to the same quarry again. With us having sightings of both species of cat there yesterday evening we were confident of at least one of them being around this morning. As the sun started to rise the raptors started to take to the air and stretch their wings from their roosts on the many posts alongside the road. The ground was crawling with black-lipped pika and white-rumped snowfinches and in the air pairs of ruddy shelducks flew in straight lines from A to B.

When we got back to the quarry and started to scan we found more Tibetan gazelles on the distant ridge, it was a nice view as the sun rose above the mountains. The first quarry was empty but the second one (where we saw the Pallas's cat yesterday) was better as we once again found a Pallas's cat in nearly the same place. It was almost certainly the same cat we saw yesterday and it was a little lower down off the ridge and among the small rocks that dot the pika colony. The cat was hunting, they often use the stones as cover and with their flat head and small ears positioned on the side of their head they appear like rocks as they slowly and patiently stalk their way closer and closer to the pika. The cat was very aware as it was in hunting mode and whilst we had great views through the telescope as soon as we tried to get a little closer for photographs the cat walked away and into the quarry. As it got up it stretched like any pet cat, head down and arms outstretched and then the reverse, doing its best yoga moves. He then crouched down and then slung his way off, probably thinking he was completely invisible (as many cats do) as he walked off. It was fortunate views in the day time and the open and a great start to the morning.

We left the quarry now and drove down the road, as we drove we had nice red-naped snowfinch views and then had breakfast in a location where we could scan and keep looking for wildlife.

We found a Tibetan fox near the road, scent marking as it moved away from the road, there were many Tibetan foxes around as usual and we had a nice close red fox in the quarry. As the sun rose and the day got warmer the Himalayan marmots started to come out and bask in the sun outside their burrows. On the ridges some female Tibetan gazelles were resting as a saker falcon perched on a rock on the top of a ridge.

After breakfast we drove up to the pass and then down into the narrow gorge that takes us off the Tibetan Plateau. Another saker falcon greeted us as we got to the pass, it was perched on a post and a pair of male Tibetan gazelles were spooked by us and ran away into a valley away from us. On the edge of the gorge we scanned for a while, looking for bhral on the opposite side (and also the hope for snow leopard, they had not been seen here before, but it was perfect habitat and plenty of prey for them). We did see large numbers of red-billed choughs and a golden eagle as well as an immature lammergeyer.





Down in the gorge we found a large flock of snow pigeons feeding on the ground, presumably on the seed sown to replant grass for the livestock. There were also more marmots down here and as we got to the narrow point of the gorge there was ice still on the road, so we didn't drive any further and the deafening sound of dynamiting was coming from a little further along. So we didn't hang around, the sound of dynamite blasting when stood in a very narrow gorge wasn't the most pleasant or safe sound to hear. So we climbed back up the gorge and to the grassland again.

Along the way and back towards the town and our lunch stop we had more views of the large Himalayan marmots, including a few stood up and calling out to potential mates. As the weather was particularly good at the moment they had decided it was time for them to start breeding. We also watched one marmot standing up and alarm calling, the high pitched call coupled with tail flicks was telling as a Tibetan fox crossed the road nearby. However it is a wonder why a marmot would be bothered by a Tibetan fox, a good size marmot is more than a match for the diminutive fox. Our last sighting of note was a pair of black-necked cranes near the road.

We then had lunch and a short rest back at the hotel before heading back out at around 5pm. We went straight to a road beyond the quarries and to one of the first locations where Sid had ever found the cat species here. It was raining heavily all around us, we had escaped it so far, but with the dark clouds looming all around us it seemed like only a matter of time before we started to get the rain too.

As we drove along we started to get some light rain and then lightning and then the heavy rain. It didn't last too long which was good and we hoped to see some wildlife come out after the short but heavy rain storm. It was not just the wildlife that wouldn't have liked the rain, we passed by three prostrators. These Buddhists are showing their devotion to Buddha by walking from their homes to an auspicious location (monastery or sometimes Lhasa or even Mt Kailash), but every step they raise their arms straight above their head and then lay down on the ground fully stretched out and stand back up, and then walk a step and do it all again. It can take several days to walk a few kilometres in this manner and it shows a higher and more complex level of devotion to their faith than many people can fathom. Nowadays they make use of the roads for ease, and so their knees, feet and hands are covered in cut sections of truck tyres and pieces of wood and there is usually a support van with food and bedding following them or waiting for them at the location they expect to reach that night.

The scanning for wildlife was hindered by the driving wind and rain, which much lessened but still stinging in the face and eyes. It was also the wind that was deterring many animals from being out and about. We did see some marmots and Tibetan fox but there was not much going on around here. So we headed towards the quarries just as it was getting dark. We had Tibetan gazelles just before visibility was reduced to using spotlights. There was no cat activity, just a saker falcon roosting in the quarry. There was a Tibetan fox sleeping in the quarry, it was disturbed by us and moved slowly around, it actually allowed us to get closer than they usually do before disappearing over the ridge and away.

We thought we spotted a Chinese mountain cat in the second quarry, but as we got closer it was a red fox doing its best sitting up cat like pose. Our last sighting before heading back to the hotel for the night was another pair of red foxes, it was a catless night unfortunately.



### Day 3 Ruoergai

### Wildlife Watching

This morning was very frosty and misty first thing, the mist hung close to the ground and as we drove to the quarry we was sometimes just hard to see more than 20m ahead. Driving along the main road we had views of a red fox curled up in the frost from that night as well as a large number of black-eared kites perched on a telegraph wire, huddled together for warmth and just about getting up to start their day.

Arriving at the first quarry Noel spotted a young wolf cub (a yearling) moving up the slope, but it didn't hang around very long. We scanned the first quarry, but without success for the cats; then on the second quarry we found a Pallas's cat, presumably the same one again. It was in a very similar position and hunting once again. A Tibetan fox was also around there and as it walked towards the cat it was interesting to see the comparative sizes, the fox being considerably smaller in bulk and weight than the stocky male Pallas's cat. The fox moved off and we watched through the scope and binoculars as the cat started to groom and then hunt for the pika around it. But with so much food always around the cat was not that bothered and certainly not feeling ravenous as it seemed to think about stalking a couple of times, but didn't really go ahead with anything. It stalked down the quarry away from us and we slowly followed, allowing enough time for it to have settled. Samuel, Marie-Pierre and Sid went around the back for the quarry and Martin and Noel walked up to the top and it was Martin and Noel that saw the Pallas's cat first, it had



not gone very far at all. As Martin and Noel climbed to the ridge of the quarry the cat was sat on a rock around 10m away and looked at us and ran away very fast (faster than a Pallas's cat looks like it can move) nimbly along the rocks and deep into the quarry and then away in the grassland beyond.

We searched and scanned but couldn't find it again, it must have been so shocked to see two humans so close to it that Martin doubted it would hang around anywhere near here. As we scanned around here we had a Tibetan fox in the scope digging out, catching and eating pika, as well as a male hen harrier flying low over the grasslands before we left for our breakfast spot on the nearby road.

On the drive to the breakfast location Noel spotted a mountain weasel moving along the pika colony, these small and powerful predators can be seen as they go into and out of burrows in the colonies looking for unaware pikas. We stopped and tried to call it closer, many mustelids are readily called out from cover by making kissing or squeaking noises with your lips and hands (mimicking the calls of many rodents and small mammals). But it was to no avail. The usual assortment of wildlife was around including upland buzzards, saker falcons, lammergeiers, Himalayan marmots, black-lipped pika and black-eared kites as we stopped and had our breakfast.

Love was definitely in the air today as we found several mating pikas and marmots, spring had sprung for sure. Above the valley we were in were some Himalayan griffon vultures circling on the first of the mornings thermals. The mist had been well and truly burnt away now and the sun had risen quiet high into the sky. Sid also spotted some very distant bharal on a slope, in truth they were very distant and hard to make out. A little closer was a little owl perched near the road and then a pair of Tibetan gazelles but they didn't stay around too long.

We drove towards the pass again and as we got nearer we spotted a pair of wolves running, they were chasing another very submissive wolf a little further ahead of them. We followed them and then got parallel with them, they were around 80m away from the road and moving at pace. The wolf being chased crossed a stream and stopped to rest in the little gully the stream had created. The other wolves didn't relent, they pursued the (presumably transgressing wolf) and got quite close to it before it realised they were still chasing it and off it went again. They all crossed the road, the chased wolf in front of the car and the chasing wolves (there were now 3 of them) behind the car. The chase went on for a couple of kilometres before the wolves were up on the slope and the chased wolf went over. As the wolves from the resident pack (we presume they were the resident ones chasing off a wolf that had invaded their territory) they disturbed an Asian badger, who seemed to be very scared and bolted away into a hole as the wolves approached. We watched and waited and it became apparent that there were 2 packs in some sort of territorial dispute, one with 4 in (the chasing pack) and 3 in the pack that originally looked like it just had one. Two more wolves had come out from nowhere to join. But they didn't put up a fight and were all chased off and away down the other side of the ridge.

We then returned to the town for lunch and came back out in the late afternoon again. We tried the large quarry first and found a Chinese mountain cat around 150m away, it was distant but nice to see in the daytime. As the night descended we had an Eurasian eagle owl perched in the quarry. We then left to spotlight along another road that was on the other side of the town to our other locations. This road can sometimes be quiet but on other occasions can be quite productive.

We quickly found some woolly hares and also another Chinese mountain cat, this was close to the road (20m away) at first, but was in some grass and eventually slunk away in the grass and along a small stream gully until it was well out of sight. We also found 3 Siberian roe deer here walking through a field towards the road and getting very close to us as we waited, until a truck came passed and scared them off again. Near a village there was a rubbish dump and nearby here a yak carcass had been dragged and around the carcass were 3 wolves, this was the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> wolves seen today and the 3 full pack! This is almost unheard of in the Tibetan Plateau and we were very lucky as these wolves were right next to the road for a while before they ran off when they realised we were not just passing through.

At this point we turned around and headed back to the hotel after a very successful day.

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## Day 4      **Wolong**

## *Travelling*

Today we left after breakfast and departed the Tibetan Plateau, the traffic and road conditions were quite good and we made it back off the plateau in good time. We would not be able to make it all of the way to our panda location today and so we stopped off at the small village of Wolong. Located in the Wolong National Nature Reserve, the place that is home to the largest population of wild pandas in the world. It is also a continuous ecosystem with the reserve we would be looking for our pandas from tomorrow onwards. However the rest of the journey requires us to cross two high passes and it is not a good idea to do these in the dark. So we said goodbye to Sid here as he went back home and said hello to our new driver and logistical manager Fugei. Martin would be the main guide from now on and Fugei the driver.

Fugei runs a little hotel in Wolong and we checked in and went for dinner in a nearby restaurant, before retiring to bed and preparing for our first foray into giant panda habitat tomorrow.

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## Day 5      **Wa'an Region**

## *Travelling & Wildlife Watching*



This morning we set off with clear blue skies over the forested mountains of Wolong. We had breakfast in a nearby restaurant before carrying on towards Balang Shan. This is the first of the two mountain passes we had to cross today. Along the way Fugei who is involved in the Panda Breeding Centre in Wolong explained the history of the panda conservation and reintroductions into Wolong. In 2006-07 a male was released from the breeding centre in Wolong, but only 1 year later he died after a violent interaction with a fully wild male in the forest. It was then decided that only females should be released as they will probably have much less chance of facing violent interactions with wild pandas. They also decided that introducing direct into Wolong core area was not ideal. The current population in Wolong is high (~150) which is a good saturation for Wolong, so there is probably very little free space for new pandas to establish their territories. So future reintroductions were planned and conducted in areas of very low panda densities or no pandas at all. Since this policy was implemented in 2013 the success rate has been very good.

Travelling along the winding roads we had great views of Wolong's famous 'cloud ocean' being above the low level cloud formations that blanket the valleys here and then a little further along we had great clear views of the Four Sisters Mountains, which includes Mount Siguniang which is the highest and youngest of the four peaks. The top of this peak stands at 4,114m above sea level. We made it over the Balang Shan pass thanks to the new tunnels which cut off the difficult summit pass and then we had good weather and conditions to get over the second pass at Boaxing and then down to our accommodation a little way away from our panda reserve.

We checked in and had lunch and then departed into the reserve for our first afternoon in prime panda habitat. It was a very hot and sunny day and we drove direct into the carpark in the middle of the reserve. We then walked towards a narrow bamboo filled valley (nicknamed Panda Valley during our previous tours here); during the hike we had some nice birds including white-capped water-redstarts which perform their territorial displays along their sections of the rivers.

Along the trail entering Panda Valley we passed the dead carcass of a panda, this had been found on our last trip here a few weeks ago. It was just skin and bones and was very unusual to find. Usually any dead giant panda is valuable to the government (to check for disease etc) and so it goes to show that this reserve is not very well maintained by the rangers and so most of the wildlife here is only seen by the handful of yak herders who use the reserve to graze their yaks.

Walking up the trail we heard some bamboo breaking nearby the trail, we could see a little movement in the bamboo, but couldn't pinpoint anything. We waited in this area, stationed every 50-100m away from each other, for around 30 minutes. There was nothing showing and so we moved up a little further along the trail. We stopped and scanned along the way, we heard a little more movement further along the trail, Fugwei went into the bamboo to look for whatever was making the noise, he couldn't find anything but some panda dung. It was quite old and so not from whatever had just made the noise. We reached the top of the bamboo along the trail, here the bamboo zone ends and the shrub grassland starts. This is the end of the panda habitat and a great place to scan the opposite forested slope. Very quickly Martin spotted a red panda sleeping in a huge spruce tree; it was nicely positioned on the thick lower branches and clearly visible. We stayed here, taking in views of the red panda and also scanning continually. Samuel and Noel went for a walk further along the trail, it was a lovely spring afternoon and the migratory birds were here in force now. Species such as white-browed fulvetas, grey crested tits, Sichuan leaf warblers, black-browed tits and Alpine thrushes all here flitting around the trees and in the undergrowth. The red panda got up, turned around and slumped itself over another branch to keep cool.

There was nothing further up the slope and so we headed back down to the main valley, from here we walked along the Bamboo Trail 1 looking for fresh evidence of pandas.

We didn't find any fresh giant panda evidence, but we did find another red panda, this one was in a tree around 25m away from the trail and nearly at eye level from us. We had some very nice views as it casually looked around and climbed a little in the tree. Further along the trail we found yet another red panda, again at near eye level and curiously looking at us allowing us to have some great views. Not a bad start to the time at the panda reserve, 3 red pandas with increasingly better views with each sighting.

We then left the reserve and headed back to the hotel for dinner, then after dinner we went spotlighting. A few weeks ago we had some very good success spotlighting along the road, so we were hopeful of finding something. However the spotlighting tonight was very poor and we didn't see anything.

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## Day 6      **Wa'an Region**

## ***Wildlife Watching***

This morning we left the hotel at 06:30am and immediately went up the slope of one of the ridges of the main valley. This is the best overall view of the slopes and the best place to spend the early morning. This is because the thermal imager is a good tool to locate animals still sleeping in the trees. Along the boardwalk we found cat tracks, the cat (most likely Asiatic golden cat judged by the size and habitat) came down from the bamboo and muddy bank and onto the boardwalk and up the trail in the direct we were travelling. The tracks were from around the last 4 days and they didn't look super fresh. However at the top of the ridge the boardwalk was covered in a layer of frost from this morning and the tracks were imprinted on the frost. These were very fresh, from the last few hours. It was crisscrossing the boardwalk and entering the forest. But there was no sign of the cat that made it. There was some nice birdlife, including a stunning Mrs. Gould's sunbird, around this morning on the slope, but no giant panda. The





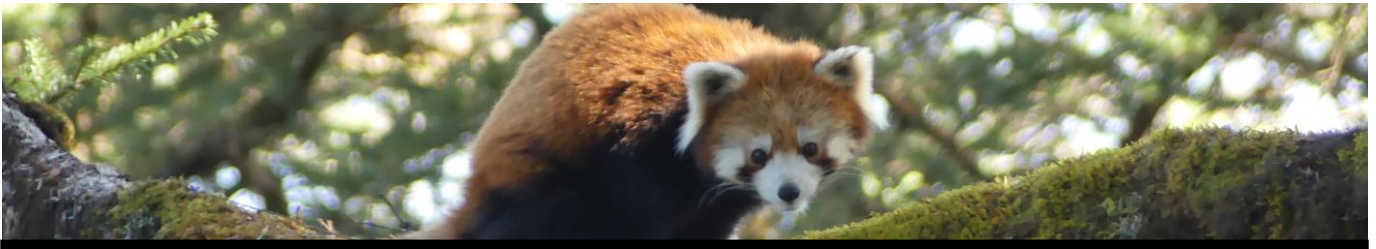
thermal did pick up a sleeping red panda sleeping in a tree before we went back down and had breakfast at the vehicle.

After breakfast we hiked along the higher elevation Bamboo Trail (Bamboo Trail 2) and then onto Panda Valley; we once again split up over a 500m stretch of bamboo along the trail. Samuel saw a tufted deer as it crossed the area of bamboo, coming into view as it passed through a clearing before disappearing into the bamboo. He was also in a position to see a moupin pika as it moved quickly between vegetation and rocks a little way off the trail. There were also many birds around the valley including long-tailed minivet, greenish warblers, large-billed crows, Hulme's leaf warbler, crested tits, ashy-throated warblers and some Himalayan griffon soaring overhead.

We stayed here for around 2 hours before walking back to the vehicle for lunch and a break in the midday heat. It was very hot and sunny again today and also quiet.

After lunch we walked up the road and spotted and scanned along the way. The sun was still bright but it was a little cloudier as the day wore on and the wind was picking up too. We had a very close sleeping red panda in a tree, its head lolling as it lay across a branch. It was around 10m away and so relaxed its head, arms, legs and tail all lay drooped dangling over the sides of the branch. We stayed with it for a long time, it eventually woke up but it was so relaxed it just stared at us and continued to stay in the same place.

Walking back towards the spotting ridge we had a nice view of an Eurasian kingfisher on a rock over a pool and also a white-throated dipper nearby. Up at the ridge and scanning we didn't see anything for the rest of the afternoon. Just a pair of Himalayan griffon vultures soaring above and a very ominous storm brewing in the distance and moving this way, we left the reserve then and headed back to the hotel. We didn't try spotlighting tonight.



## **Day 7      Wa'an Region**

## ***Wildlife Watching***

This morning we entered the park at dawn, it was another clear day and we went immediately to the viewing location and started scanning. We were not very long into scanning the ridges when Samuel came over to Martin and very casually asked 'could this be two pandas?' and showed his camera. On the screen was a picture of a large rhododendron tree in an exposed gap in the canopy. Around two of the branches were black and white blobs. Then zooming in the blobs did seem to have a little form, Martin then quickly got the scope on the area and the mother and nearly fully grown cub resting in the tree were clearly obvious!

Just before this Martin was using the thermal to locate a very likely giant panda on the same slope, but a little distance away, but that animal was proving very hard to see so we focused all of our efforts on the two pandas we had in view.

We had some excellent views of this pair of giant pandas for the best part of an hour, they stayed asleep for most of this time, but as the sun rose and started to warm their tree they moved around a little. Through the scope and binoculars we could see the intimate behaviour of them calling to each other, the mother in particular seemingly growling at the cub who moved from its position towards its mother. A few minutes after spotting them Martin ran down the slope to get Fugwei, he had stayed in the vehicle this morning, but as he had never seen a wild giant panda before, Martin felt it was only right he go and get him. So Martin went running down the slope, wanting to do this as quickly as possible so that the pandas didn't leave.

Just next to the trail and near the bamboo there was an Asiatic golden cat, it didn't hang around very long, just long enough to be identified, but the sight of Martin running down the trail towards it was enough to have the cat run into the bamboo and probably not stop running for quite a while. Martin did stop and waited and listened but the cat was very unlikely to show again. However it did confirm that the prints we had seen around this exact area a couple of days ago were Asiatic golden cat.

Martin collected Fugwei and the pandas were still in the same place and we all continued to watch them for a while longer. The mother was the first to climb into the canopy and out of sight and for a while the cub stayed in the open but eventually followed its mother and they both disappeared from view. We then went down for breakfast. What a great way to start to the day!

After breakfast we had great Himalayan griffon views riding a thermal above us and then we walked along Bamboo Trail 1 and stopped to stake out an area of bamboo. We spread out again along the trail and waited for around 2 hours. We were in a place where we would encounter the giant pandas from this morning if they came down the slope directly towards the valley. The pandas didn't come down the slope towards us, we did have views of many warblers and some brown-throated parrotbills in the bamboo. Fugwei thought he had heard a panda calling, but he couldn't be sure. Noel had a great view of a red panda up a tree and around 25m away from the trail. But there was no giant panda and so we walked back to the main carpark for lunch.



After lunch we split up again and went back to Bamboo Trail 1 and the road that runs parallel. Once again the major wildlife on the stake out were birds with long-tailed minivets and Eurasian hoopoes being the highlights. We all met up and it appeared that Noel had had a view of a sambar deer on the opposite slope, there were 7 griffon vultures in the air now.

From here we went to Panda Valley and had around 1.5 hours staking out the bamboo, it was very quiet on the slope and in panda valley and there were no further sightings of note today.

Back at the hotel we had a night drive, we tried a much later time than last time here, but it was incredibly quiet again. There was a possible Chinese serow and Chinese goral in the dense vegetation on a slope, but it was impossible to be sure. It started to rain and so we decided to go back to the hotel.

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## Day 8      **Wa'an Region**

## *Wildlife Watching*

This morning we entered the reserve at dawn again, this morning it was misty. There had been some heavy rain overnight and the low cloud cover today was going to be a problem for scanning. We hoped it would be burnt off quickly, so we headed straight to the scanning spot and hoped for similar luck as we had yesterday. Up on the viewing spot it was rainy and the mist was rolling in and covering our viewing forests. The visibility was very poor and the thermal was struggling to pick up anything as the mist was very thick and very cold. Looking around at the direction of the wind the clouds were getting thick and thicker and there didn't appear to be any breaks for the sun to come in and burn it away. Still we persevered and stayed at the slope scanning for around 1.5 hours before heading down and having breakfast.

Because of the washout on the higher slopes we decided on a different plan of attack. We went up a new trail, one that was directly opposite the viewing spot and a trail we had not tried before. It was an area of very thick bamboo, but there was no panda dung around, just horses and yaks in the bamboo on this side of the valley. We decided to give this area a good go and waited for a while here, split up again, but the low cloud was not clearing up and it was wetter and cooler today than previous days. The only sightings of wild animals we had were various birds and a Swinhoe's striped squirrel, but the weather was making this difficult now. So we came down and then walked up along Bamboo Trail 2 and down to Bamboo Trail 1. Along the way we found a foraging flock of fulvous parrotbills just before we had lunch.

At around 12:30pm the sun started to come out a little, but the cloud and mist was still hanging over the bamboo forest, making scanning from distance very difficult. A griffon was on a thermal and this was a sign that at least the air temperature was warming up; we decided to split up with Noel, Samuel and Martin heading to Panda Valley and staking out the bamboo area for around 1.5 hours. Samuel was in the same place he was a few days ago and once again saw a moupin pika but not much else. We then went up to the viewing spot for one last try this afternoon. The mist was still around and there was some light rain falling. The visibility was very patchy but in the clear section Martin spotted a giant panda sat upright with its back to us and in between two tree trunks. It was very hard to make out, until it moved its arm and pulled down some bamboo and started to eat it. We watched for a while but it was a poor view and the visibility was only getting worse. With clear skies the sighting would have been good and possibly allowed us to get closer, but we couldn't pin point the location of the panda exactly as we couldn't see enough of the trees around the panda. We made the decision that because we had had such good sighting previously and the weather was so bad today and it was getting late we would head back to the vehicle and meet up with Fugwei and Marie-Pierre.

We heard a blue-eared pheasant calling and saw black-chinned yuhinas on the way back and Marie-Pierre told us of a Perny's long-nosed squirrel sighting she had near the boardwalk. From here we headed back to the hotel for the night.



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## Day 9      **Wa'an Region**

## *Wildlife Watching*

This morning we entered the reserve once again at dawn, it was very misty once again and we didn't fancy our chances of seeing much wildlife again. Due to our success in seeing both red and giant pandas and the bad run of luck we were having with the spotlighting the group decided to leave this reserve early and head to Tangjiahe earlier than scheduled. So we would drive from here this afternoon and overnight half way to Tangjiahe.





The mist was lower into the valley today than on previous days as we drove to the main carpark. We didn't even go up to the viewing spot as it was covered in thick cloud, so we split up to walk along the main road and Bamboo Trail 1 before breakfast.

It started to rain as we were walking and stopping and scanning around, there were some small birds around but nothing we had not already seen. Then Martin spotted a tufted deer running for its life near the main river of the main valley. It was running because it was being chased by two feral dogs. There are a number of dogs in the reserve, we see them occasionally in the forest and along the road. They are not particularly large dogs but they are very aggressive and capable of killing animals. On our last trip here we found a very recently killed tufted deer near the entrance to Bamboo Trail 1 and 2. It was killed and then eaten by the feral dogs. Martin could hear the dogs barking and then the sounds of the tufted deer crying out, it was all coming from the same place, so clearly the dogs had cornered the deer. The sounds were horrible to hear and Martin was pleased he was on his own for this and the clients had gone off to look and check out other parts of the road and trail. The screams and calls from the deer were fading and then eventually nothing, it sounded like the dogs had killed it. It was such a shame that such a great reserve, some wonderful forest and a healthy population of both giant and red pandas was so badly managed that many horses, yaks and dogs were found throughout the reserve.

Further along the road there was a mixed foraging flock of newly migrated warblers and we had nice views of a white-backed woodpecker just 2m away on a dead tree trunk. We then had breakfast and afterward had one last couple of hours here to try and find another panda. We went to Panda Valley once last time, there was an abundance of bird life around with mixed flocks of minivets, warblers and tits. There was another moupin pika sighting in the same place as we had seen previously.

This was the last sighting and we returned to the vehicle and drove back to the hotel for lunch, then after lunch we left the area and climbed back up over the first pass and then over Balang Shan, through Wolong and to the city of Dujiangyang. Here we got a hotel and overnighted. This is a nice place to come and breakup the journey to Tangjiahe.

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## Day 10      **Tangjiahe NNR**

## *Travelling & Wildlife Watching*

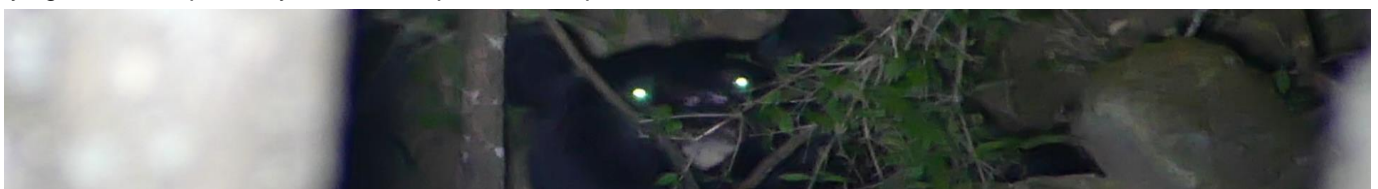
We left Dujiangyang at 8am and started the long journey to Tangjiahe National Nature Reserve, we reached the gate of the reserve at 14:30 after stopping in Pingwu for lunch and to buy some more supplies for the next few days. Tangjiahe is famous for being one of the most reliable places in the China to see a variety of ungulate species, as well as a wealth of other wildlife. We would have 4 nights here and therefore 4 night drives. With so much opportunity for sightings of rare wildlife we were very optimistic.

Once through the entry gate we drove up towards the hotel which lies in the middle of the reserve. We spotted the first of our ungulate species, a couple of Reeve's muntjac were on the side of the road in small pastures, we also had a Sichuan takin and a Chinese goral on a rocky slope. Then we reached the hotel and unpacked and then after dark went back out to see what we could find by spotlighting.

We immediately started to see some takin around, including a mother and young calf and a large male just on the other side of the river. There are so many takin around the reserve that it can be hard to spot the other species for all of the takin eye shine. But we did have further Reeve's muntjac sightings and another Chinese goral with two young takin nearby, all three were feeding in the forest.

All of the muntjac we were seeing were in the middle of moulting their winter coat for their summer pelage and they looked a little mangy. But we did have some excellent muntjac very close to the road and in the open areas of grass. In one of the larger grassy areas, nearby to a research & visitor centre there was a recent (but mostly rotted) takin carcass. Here we found three large male Eurasian wild pigs scavenging from the carcass, they ran off when we approached on the road. Then spotlighting around here Martin spotted an Asiatic black bear nearby, it seemed like it could be coming down to feed on the carcass. It was half hidden in the vegetation and very wary about coming out into the open. So we stopped, turned the engine off and killed the lights and waited a few minutes. The bear didn't come out to the carcass but a little later we spotted a bear on the other side of the river making its way up the slope and away into the forest. It was very likely the same bear and we misinterpreted the behaviour, it was not waiting for the carcass to be empty but the road, so it could cross over. We tried to keep the bear in sights on the other side of the river, but it was too thick with vegetation.

There was a very brief Indochinese leopard cat that Martin spotted walking up the rocky slope from the river and disappeared into the grass just below the forest. We then headed back to the hotel, we had many more sightings of Sichuan takin and some excellent Chinese goral sightings on the rocky slopes alongside the road. They were lying down and probably tried to sleep when we spotted them.





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## Day 11 **Tangjiahe NNR**

## *Wildlife Watching*

This morning we were up at dawn and flying around the rooms in the early morning light were some common noctule flying around. We then drove down the main road again and straight away spotted a large male takin on the side of the road, it hopped over the 1m tall fence with amazing ease and crossed the road and climbed the steep bank and away into the forest. Carrying on along the road we spotted a Pere David's rock squirrel running between the boulders on the other side of the river, then very briefly there was a Chinese serow moving in the distance on the slope and into thick forest. It didn't come back out and we moved on.

Grazing up on a rocky slope were a pair of Chinese goral as well as a couple of Reeve's muntjac near the road and allowing us very good close views. They didn't hang around very long though and we continued onwards. We arrived at a lay by and stopped, we would walk up a trail called the Defence Trail, this is a steep climb (some 596 plus stairs) to the top of a ridge, on the ridge is an old fortified wall and small fort which has stood here for hundreds of years. Along the way we had views over the opposite slope which is pristine forest and many grass pastures. There were many takin around this morning and we had nice views of a female and very young takin (the young one was completely dark). Half way up the slope we had a very close blue-and-white flycatcher perched in a tree next to the trail.

On our way back down the trail on the other side of the ridge we found a northern hog badger walking along the slope and then onto the path and walking directly towards us. It was walking along sniffing the ground and got to around 4m away from us before it stopped, looked up and noticed us. It then moved quickly off the trail and away into the forest. What a great close, daytime sighting of a wonderful mammal.

On our way back to the hotel for breakfast we had more Sichuan takin sightings, a second Pere David's rock squirrel and a good number of Pere David's snow trout. Back at the hotel the resident Tibetan macaques were out and begging for food from the tourists and staff. After breakfast we had the middle of the day free to explore around the hotel and the network of trails here or just rest.

Then at 4pm we left to go out again, along the road we found Reeve's muntjacs walking and grazing as well as more takin and a nice goral sighting on a cliff at eye level. There were many birds around including bulbuls, flycatchers which have all recently migrated back here from further south.

We went back for dinner before heading out again after dark; spotlighting we had more takin and muntjac sightings as well as a masked palm civet climbing around a tree, having a groom and then feeding on berries. It was a great close view but the dense foliage hindered photography. In the grass meadows next to the road and up the slope there were around 40 takin all in close proximity. Further along we found another pair of masked palmed civets in a tree nearer the road, they were also feeding on the same type of berries. Further sightings before returning to the hotel for the night was; a large Eurasian wild pig feeding on the takin carcass, goral on the rocks near the hotel and a very nice muntjac at a small mineral lick.

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## Day 12 **Tangjiahe NNR**

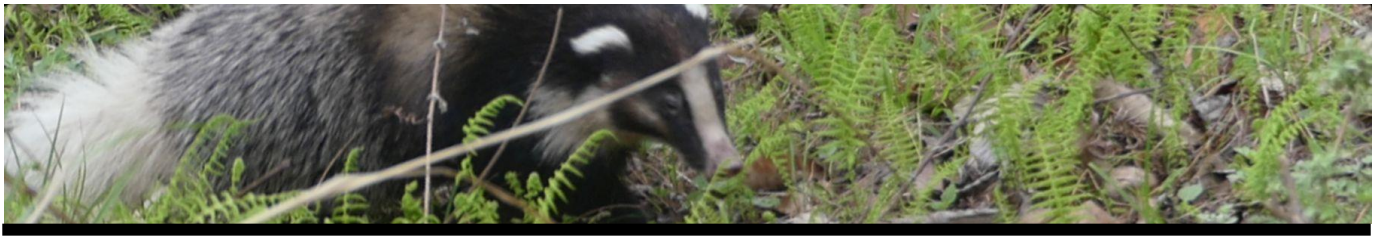
## *Wildlife Watching*

We were back out at dawn and today drove down to Ginko point (which is the end of the road and the entrance to another road only accessible by the park's mini buses or walking). We walked down the road today and came to a takin crossing the river first thing. As usual there were many takin and muntjac around and a close Pere David's rock squirrels along the road. Walking along this part of the forest we had some nice bird sightings including red-billed blue magpies and endemic slaty bunting. We were serenaded by the red-billed blue magpies and their multitude of calls as we walked along the road towards a couple of viewing areas which can be productive with ungulates and primates. But today it was not very productive and we turned around and started heading back to the hotel for breakfast, are last sighting on this road was a glimpse of a male golden pheasant.

Then in the mid afternoon we went back out and to the Defence Pass once again, it was very hot and sunny and we had a nice takin in the glorious sunlight as well as Eurasian wild pigs in the pastures. At the top of the ridge we heard many large-billed crows calling, but couldn't pinpoint where they were and if they were around a carcass. On the opposite ridge we spotted a few Asiatic black bear nests. These are where the bear is up a tree and bends and breaks branches down to form a little platform to rest on as they either feed or sleep. They last for several months and these were old, most likely from last autumn.

On the way back to the hotel we saw an Eurasian hoopoe and noticed a lot of takin coming down from the forest and towards the pastures.

Back out after dinner and spotlighting we had two fantastic Chinese goral sightings as well as many Eurasian wild pigs, Sichuan takins and Reeve's muntjac. Tangjiahe is truly the place for ungulates in China. It was very quiet for the other mammals on the way down to the bottom of the road. At the takin carcass we found another large male Eurasian wild pig and then a northern hog badger on the grass also. Back up near the hotel we found another masked palm civet on the rocks near the river and then another near the hotel feeding in a tree over the river.



## Day 13 Tangjiahe NNR

## Wildlife Watching

Like the last couple of days we were up in the morning early and back down drove back down the road. Once again there were nice takin sightings along the road and river in the early morning and then some Eurasian wild pigs nearby the hotel. We walked up the Defence Pass again, heading up there first thing today. It was quiet on the slope, with muntjac and takin being the only wildlife, but not in great numbers as we had seen before.

It started to rain as we were up on the slope but other than a Chinese goral there was nothing else of note. On the far distance ridge there were 11 takin grazing together, we then completed the Defence Pass trail and drove further down the road. As we were walking back to the car we spotted a coach with other tourists and the coach driver told us that they had just seen an Asiatic black bear cross the road and river and disappear into the forest and then before then a yellow-throated marten had shot across the road. It just goes to show where you are and the timing is all luck, if we had done the Defence Pass after the drive like over days we may have seen these animals, similarly if we have started the trail from the other direction we would probably have seen them on the road. But that is wildlife and the nature of wildlife watching. We did see a crested kingfisher fishing and then eating a fish as well as a young Chinese goral seemingly playing with a flock of red-billed blue magpies. It was chasing them around in a non-aggressive manner. However it was probably more the magpies idea of fun than the goral. We then returned to the hotel for our breakfast.

In the time between breakfast and lunch Noel and Marie-Pierre went for a walk along some of the trails behind the hotel and spotted a long-nosed mole above the ground which was a very nice and unusual sighting. Samuel walked around the other side of the river and came across muntjac and a wonderful male Mrs. Gould's sunbird.

After lunch we went back out and drove down the road and walked some of the road. During the walk we spotted goral and takin and many of the common birds. It started to rain as we got to the exposed slopes which can be productive for ungulates and the sounds of thunder rumbling around forced us back and towards the vehicle. On the way back we found a *Diploderma zhaoermii* lizard on the road and then a beautiful male golden pheasant crossed the road right in front of us.

We went back to the hotel and then after dark headed out once again and through the rain we were spotlighting. The rain was quite heavy and it was amazing to see the huge number frogs on the road, the rain was making it easier for these frogs to leave the undergrowth and cross the open areas and find mates. There were hundreds of frogs out crossing the road tonight, they were largely from two species; green odorous frogs and Asiatic toads. But other the huge number of amphibians on the road we also had sightings of Chinese gorals, Reeve's muntjac and Sichuan takins as normal, we also had some nice views of Chinese serow (finally). It was moving slowly though the forest and nearby was a male tufted deer. But in general there was less wildlife tonight than usual, the rain was most likely the reason for this.

On our way back we did have a very nice northern hog badger sighting before it really started to rain heavy. As the rain started to chuck it down we headed back to the hotel, there was nothing else of note until Samuel found a smallish owl just off the road, but before we could stop and get the main spotlight on it, it had flown away.

## Day 14 Tangjiahe / Foping

## Travelling

This morning we left the hotel very early and departed Tangjiahe, our goal today was a long drive away. We would be heading north and towards Foping. We would aim to arrive in the early afternoon so we can enter the reserve and try and see the habituated golden snub-nosed monkeys today.

Our drive out of the park did result in a couple of animals, including a very brief but nice Chinese ferret badger just on the side of the road and scurrying away quickly.

It was quite wet throughout most of the drive and we used the highways and so the vast majority of the day was uneventful.

Once we arrived we went to Foping and were immediately told that the habituated monkeys which were all but guaranteed sightings were no longer being encouraged to come down to the pathways. This is as a result of some low birth rates in this troop. As it is the breeding season they decided to leave the monkeys alone and so they are spending all of their time high up in the hills and out of sight of where we can access.

This was a very new ruling as our last trip here around 3 weeks ago had the monkeys around as they had been for years. There was no word or warning of this and so were disappointed to be ending the trip without our last major mammal sighting. But there was nothing we could do about this.





What was interesting and also sad about the journey to and from Foping reserve was that on the way out it was raining quite heavily and the road being a winding mountain road (common in Sichuan) we were around 50m behind a truck and in between as we passed a corner was an object in the road, it was round and as we got closer it was scaled and moving. Martin was pretty sure it was a young Chinese pangolin, however it was a brief view as we drove past and with no means to stop on this narrow winding road safely. Plus when looking in the rear view mirror it appeared that the vehicle behind us hit the poor pangolin. So we carried on, it was only when we were on the way back we checked at the area and there was a squashed pangolin on the road. It could have been that this pangolin was coming down from the steep forested slope just next to the road, it could have been washed down in a small mudslide caused by the rain or it may have even fallen out of the lorry in front of us after being trafficked! There is no way of knowing 100%, but it is sad that the only pangolin seen on our trips to China comes in these circumstances.

On getting back to the hotel we rested and had dinner.

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## Day 15      **Foping / Xi'an**

## *Travelling & Departure*

This morning we left the hotel and transferred quickly to the train station, we then caught the high speed train to Xi'an and then caught a taxi to the airport and caught our return flights home.

# Species List

Sichuan's Mammals Tour

Apr 2019

## **Mammals** (\* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Giant panda	<i>Ailuropoda melanoleuca</i>
2	Red panda	<i>Ailurus fulgens</i>
3	South China field mouse	<i>Apodemus draco</i>
4	Northern hog badger	<i>Arctonyx albogularis</i>
5	Sichuan takin	<i>Budorcas tibetana</i>
6	Tibetan wolf	<i>Canis himalayensis</i>
7	Siberian roe deer	<i>Capreolus pygargus</i>
8	Chinese serow	<i>Capricornis milneedwardsii</i>
9	Asiatic golden cat	<i>Catopuma temminckii</i>
10	Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>
11	Perny's long-nosed squirrel	<i>Dremomys pernyi</i>
12	Tufted deer	<i>Elaphodus cephalophus</i>
13	Chinese zokor	<i>Eospalax fontanierii</i>
14	Long-nosed mole	<i>Euroscaptor longirostris</i>
15	Chinese mountain cat	<i>Felis bieti</i>
16	Chinese pipistrelle	<i>Hypsugo pulveratus</i>
17	Malayan porcupine	<i>Hystrix brachyura</i>
18	Woolly hare	<i>Lepus oiostolus</i>
19	Tibetan macaque	<i>Macaca thibetana</i>
20	Chinese pangolin	<i>Manis pentadactyla</i>
21	Asian badger	<i>Meles leucurus</i>
22	Chinese ferret badger	<i>Melogale moschata</i>
23	Reeve's muntjac	<i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>
24	Mountain weasel	<i>Mustela altaica</i>
25	Chinese goral	<i>Naemorhedus griseus</i>
26	Confucian niviventer	<i>Niviventer confucianus</i>
27	Common noctule	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>
28	Plateau pika	<i>Ochotona curzoniae</i>
29	Moupin pika	<i>Ochotona thibetana</i>

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30	Pallas's cat	<i>Otocolobus manul</i>
31	Masked palm civet	<i>Paguma larvata</i>
32	Japanese pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus abramus</i>
33	Indochinese leopard cat	<i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i>
34	Tibetan gazelle	<i>Procapra picticaudata</i>
35	Bharal	<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>
36	Pearson's horseshoe bat	<i>Rhinolophus pearsonii</i>
37	Pere David's rock squirrel	<i>Sciurotamias davidianus</i>
38	Eurasian wild pig	<i>Sus scofra</i>
39	Swinhoe's striped squirrel	<i>Tamias swinhoi</i>
40	Asiatic black bear	<i>Ursus thibetianus</i>
41	Red fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
42	Tibetan fox	<i>Vulpes ferrilata</i>

NB: 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.

**Birds** (\* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Northern goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>
2	Black-browed tit	<i>Aegithalos bonvaloti</i>
3	Mrs. Gould's sunbird	<i>Aethopyga gouldiae</i>
4	Eurasian kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
5	Blyth's pipit	<i>Anthus godlewskii</i>
6	Buff-bellied pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>
7	Rosy pipit	<i>Anthus roseatus</i>
8	Golden eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>
9	Steppe eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>
10	Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
11	Little owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>
12	Bay woodpecker	<i>Blythipicus pyrrhotis</i>
13	Eurasian eagle owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>
14	Cattle egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>
15	Upland buzzard	<i>Buteo hemilasius</i>
16	Bar-tailed treecreeper	<i>Certhia himalayana</i>
17	White-capped water redstart	<i>Chaimarronis leucocephalus</i>

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18	Brown-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus</i>
19	Golden pheasant	<i>Chrysolophus pictus</i>
20	White-throated dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>
21	Brown dipper	<i>Cinclus pallasii</i>
22	Northern harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
23	Daurian jackdaw	<i>Coloeus dauuricus</i>
24	Snow pigeon	<i>Columba leuconota</i>
25	Hill pigeon	<i>Columba rupestris</i>
26	Feral pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
27	Great parrotbill	<i>Conostoma oemodium</i>
28	Black-winged cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina melaschistos</i>
29	Monk vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>
30	Northern raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>
31	Large-billed crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>
32	White-eared pheasant	<i>Crossoptilon crossoptilon</i>
33	Blue-and-white flycatcher	<i>Cyanoptila cyanomelana</i>
34	Asian house martin	<i>Delichon dassypus</i>
35	Crimson-breasted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos cathpharius</i>
36	White-backed woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>
37	Great spotted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
38	Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
39	Little bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>
40	Horned lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>
41	Verditer flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassinus</i>
42	Saker falcon	<i>Falco cherrug</i>
43	Eurasian kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
44	Slaty-backed flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hodgsonii</i>
45	White-browed fulvetta	<i>Fulvetta vinipectus</i>
46	Plain laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax davidi</i>
47	Eurasian jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
48	Black-necked crane	<i>Grus nigricollis</i>
49	Lammergeier	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>
50	Himalayan griffon	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>
51	Barn swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
52	Black bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>
53	Mountain bulbul	<i>Ixos mcclllandii</i>
54	Slaty bunting	<i>Latoucheornis siemsseni</i>

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55	Twite	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>
56	Grey-crested tit	<i>Lophophanes dichrous</i>
57	Plain mountain finch	<i>Leucosticte nemoricola</i>
58	Crested kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle lugubris</i>
59	Black-eared kite	<i>Milvus lineatus</i>
60	Rufous-necked snowfinch	<i>Montifringilla ruficollis</i>
61	White-rumped snowfinch	<i>Montifringilla taczanowskii</i>
62	White wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
63	Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
64	Blue whistling thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>
65	Spotted nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>
66	Black crowned night-heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
67	Fulvous parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis fulvifrons</i>
68	Black-throated parrotbill	<i>Paradoxornis nipalensis</i>
69	Green-backed tit	<i>Parus monticolus</i>
70	Eurasian tree sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>
71	Long-tailed minivet	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>
72	Rufous-vented tit	<i>Periparus rubidiventris</i>
73	Rock petronia	<i>Petronia petronia</i>
74	Plumbeous water redstart	<i>Phoenicurus fuliginosus</i>
75	Eastern black redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
76	White-throated redstart	<i>Phoenicurus schisticeps</i>
77	Hulme's leaf warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>
78	Sichuan leaf warbler	<i>Phylloscopus forresti</i>
79	Ashy-throated warbler	<i>Phylloscopus maculipennis</i>
80	Pallas's leaf warbler	<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>
81	Greenish warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>
82	Eurasian magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>
83	Pygmy wren babbler	<i>Pnoepyga pusilla</i>
84	Hulme's ground tit	<i>Pseudopodoces humilis</i>
85	Grey-headed parrotbill	<i>Psittiparus gularis</i>
86	Green shrike-babbler	<i>Pteruthius xanthochlorus</i>
87	Eurasian crag martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>
88	Red-billed chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>
89	Spotted dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
90	Collared finchbill	<i>Spizixos semitorques</i>
91	Ruddy shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>
92	Elliot's laughingthrush	<i>Trochalopteron elliotii</i>

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8	~133	~92											
3									2				1
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6	10	~25	5										
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93	Winter wren	<i>Troglodytes hiemalis</i>
94	Kessler's thrush	<i>Turdus kessleri</i>
95	Chestnut thrush	<i>Turdus rubrocanus</i>
96	Eurasian hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
97	Red-bellied blue magpie	<i>Urocissa erythroryncha</i>
98	Black-chinned yuhina	<i>Yuhina nigrimenta</i>
99	Alpine thrush	<i>Zoothera mollissima</i>
100	Oriental white-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>

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### Reptiles (\* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1		<i>Diploderma zhaoermii</i>
2	Shanghai elegant skink	<i>Plestiodon elegans</i>

April														
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
												1		
									1					

### Amphibians (\* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Asiatic toad	<i>Bufo gargarizans</i>
2	Green odorous frog	<i>Odorrana margaretae</i>

April														
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
												~30		
												~50		

### Fishes (\* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Pere David's snow trout	<i>Schizothorax davidi</i>

April														
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
										~50	~10	2		