



China Bird Tour
Since 1999



China Mammal Tour
Since 2014

Trip Report of Mammals at Shiqu County of Sichuan province in China

Time: 10-21 Sep 2021

Leader: Tang Jun

Participants: Hongying Zhong, Jin Wang, Yulong Peng and Ziniu Song

Vehicles: Two TOYOTA 4WD Landcruisers

Driver: Tang Jun and Nyima Zhapa

Reported by: Tang Jun

Date to report: 20 April 2022

Group photo L-R: Peng, Wang, Lv, Zhong, Song, Tang Jun



CBT 星球物种自然旅行

Brief Itinerary:

10 Sep Tang Jun with Zhong and Wang, start from Chengdu by overland and arrive at Daofu for overnight

11 Sep looking for wildlife around Daofu and carry on to Manigange

12 Sep arrive at Shiqu and meet up other two participants (Song and Peng) arrived by fly to Yushu airport from Xi'an and Nanjing city

13-18 Sep Use Xiangde Nyima Hotel at Shiqu county as base and do various one-day tours to different sites for mammals

19 Sep Last mammals watching at Shiqu and drive to Yushu

20 Sep drop off at Yushu airport in the morning and Tang Jun start to drive back to Chengdu in three full days total 1200km.



China Bird Tour
Since 1999



China Mammal Tour
Since 2014

Map/Location: Chengdu - 980km - Shiqu -180km- Yushu Airport



Shiqu county located about 1000km northwest of Chengdu and is the southern part of Qinghai/Tibet Plateau with very rich of wildlife resources. Our main purpose to this area is looking for CATS include Snow Leopard, Pallas's Cat, Lynx and Chinese Mountain Cat and other mammals.

More detailed report:

10-12 Sep 2021: Chengdu to Shiqu

As we were driving all the way to Shiqu thus stopped few sites en route for wildlife, so we did not see that much. After we passed Manigange town and about 200km before Shiqu county where looks quite remote and very good for wildlife. We saw our first Lynx of the trip at the slope area beside the road where is about 100km before Shiqu county.

Lynx@TangJun





China Bird Tour
Since 1999



China Mammal Tour
Since 2014

Other mammals include: Tibetan Gazelle, Tibetan Fox, Wolf, Red Fox, Plateau Pika, White-lipped Deer, Himalyan Marmot, Wooly Hare

Plateau Pika@TangJun



13-18 Sep 2021: Shiqu and around

We used Xiangde Nyima Hotel at Shiqu downtown which is a quite good one. Every day we start early (normally at about 05:30am) with packed breakfast and lunch, went to different sites around Shiqu county and try different targets, of course main for cats. And came back to hotel later afternoon or evening for a big dinner.

To the northern part of Shiqu, here is village named Gayi where is about 100km from Shiqu township, here are mountains, grasslands, wide valleys and big rocks on the slope area, this is the typical habitat for Snow Leopard.

We spent the first two morning to arrive here by 8:00am and looking for Snow Leopard. But each morning we only saw two huge flocks at about 400 Blue Sheep on the slope but no Snow Leopard.

The third morning we saw 3 kids Pallas's Cats were playing in front of a cave from the road and we decide climbed up for a better photograph chance.



China Bird Tour
Since 1999



China Mammal Tour
Since 2014

3 Pallas's Cat saw from the road@TangJun



It was a hard trip to climb up with big cameras and when finally we got closer, the cats disappeared as expected which is not a surprise.

The other purpose to climb up was try for a better view point to the slope area where the Snow Leopard supposed to be.

That day the Snow Leopard DID appeared but not at the supposed site and we did not have a proper view but our local driver, Nyima Zhapa who stayed along the road had a better view of the Snow Leopard.

Photo@Nyima Zhapa





China Bird Tour
Since 1999



China Mammal Tour
Since 2014

And for the Lynx, also on the same direction to Snow Leopard site. It was about 20km before Snow Leopard site where is an open valley with long yellow grasses and our "second" Lynx of the trip was hunting around.

Lynx@TangJun



Except the watching route to north of Shiqu county for Snow Leopard, Pallas's Cat and Lynx, and we also searched east, west and south direction of Shiqu.

Scan Cats@TangJun





China Bird Tour
Since 1999



China Mammal Tour
Since 2014

West: Drive towards Yushu along the national road and checked the sub-roads of the main one for mammals. We saw many time of Tibetan Fox, Red Fox and Wolf. And other mammals at this direction include Blue Sheep, Argali, Mountain Weasel, Steppe Polecat and also good habitat for Snow Leopard but we did not see it.

Steppe Polecat@TangJun



Argali@TangJun





China Bird Tour
Since 1999



China Mammal Tour
Since 2014

East: The road to east is back towards Chengdu where we drove in. The main habitat is grassland and flat river valley area. We saw wolf, Tibetan Fox, Red Fox, Mountain Weasel and Plateau Pikas in this direction.

Tibetan Fox@TangJun



Mountain Weasel@TangJun





China Bird Tour
Since 1999



China Mammal Tour
Since 2014

South: The road to south is drive from high plateau down into forest valley till Yangtze River to arrive Zhenda. Here is the good habitat for Leopard (of course we did not see) and Snow Leopard as well. We do not had that much to see but Blue Sheep

Blue Sheep@TangJun



19 Sep 2021: Drive south to check the site for Chinese Mountain Cat and carry on to Yushu to stay, very good dinner to celebrate

Chinese Mountain Cat@TangJun





China Bird Tour
Since 1999



China Mammal Tour
Since 2014

We arrived a valley where a very small village located, and following a local people, we had a look of the mix-blooded Chinese Mountain Cat.

20 Sep 2021: drop off at airport and tour ends



Mammal we saw during the trip:

Snow Leopard, Pallas's Cat, Lynx, "Chinese Mountain Cat", Kiang, Tibetan Gazelle, Grey Wolf, Tibetan & Red Fox, Argali, Hog Budger, Steppe Polecat, Blue Sheep, White-lipped Deer, Mountain Weasel, Swinhoe's Striped Squirrel, Himalayan Marmot, Gansu & Plateau Pika, Woolly Hare





China Bird Tour
Since 1999



China Mammal Tour
Since 2014

Gansu Pika@TangJun



Red Fox@Tang Jun





China Bird Tour
Since 1999



China Mammal Tour
Since 2014

Wolf@TangJun



Blue Sheep and Lammergeier@TangJun





China Bird Tour
Since 1999



China Mammal Tour
Since 2014

Birds we saw:

Tibetan Partridge, Tibetan Snowcock, Tibetan Bunting, White-browed Tit, Himalayan Vulture, Lammergeier, Upland Buzzard, Golden Eagle, Saker Falcon, Chinese Grey Shrike, Little Owl, Eagle Owl, Streaked Rosefinch, Common Rosefinch, Red-fronted Rosefinch, Robin Accentor, Brown Accentor, Bar-headed Goose, Common Merganser, Brown-headed Gull, Red-billed Thrush, Alpine Thrush, Kessler's Thrush, Chestnut Thrush, Brandt's Mountain Finch, Godlewski's Bunting

Tibetan Partridge@TangJun



Reported by: Tang Jun

ChinaMammalTour.com
ChinaBirdTour.com

tangjun@chinabirdtour.com