Earlier of 2020, Coronavirus Pneumonia/COVID-19 sweeps the whole globe and we are not allowed to travel around and no wildlife business. Then our team (China Mammal Tour) able to use this time finally realized our mammal expedition planned 8 years ago. Our main purpose is Sillem's Rosefinch re-discovered by Yann Muzika in 2012 and deep research some remote sites of Sichuan & Tibet Plateau where few people reached for some quality mammals. We ended with a fruitful trip and proudly announce that we are the first group of Chinese wildlife lovers who got Sillem's Rosefinch and we also put some high quality mammals like Snow Leopard, Lynx, Pallas's Cat, Brown Bear, Argali, Tibetan Antelope, Wild Yak into our pocket.

We start on 25 May at Chengdu and back on 12 June total 6036km.
Two TOYOTA 4WD Landcruisers.

Participants: CMT team and several close friends.
CBT team: Tang Jun, Robbi Zhu, Parus Yang, Ivan He, Jay Wu, Liu Jinsong
Friends: Zhong Hongying, Yang Xiaosui, Liu Zhiyong

Route:

First of all, we MUST sincere show our acknowledgements to Yann, founder of the finch, Hannu & Dave who provided us the information and suggestion.

Detailed report:
25 May Chengdu(500m) to Ruoergai(3500m). Stopped near Hongyuan for mammals. 560km. Stay at Tang Gu Te Hotel(4*).
Chinese Serow(1), Red Deer(4), Siberian Roe Deer(6), White-eared Pheasant, Eagle Owl, Elliot’s Laughingthrush, Plain Laughingthrush, Sichuan Tit, Black-necked Crane en route.

26 May Ruoergai-Baxi Forest-Ruoergai-Wetland area-Ruoergai 200km

Tibetan Fox, Red Fox, Plateau Pika, Himalayan Mammot, Gansu Pika, Blue-eared Pheasant, Sichuan Jay, Snowy-cheeked & Plain & Giant & Elliot’s Laughingthrush, Sichuan Tit, White-browed Tit Warbler, Balck Woodpecker, Goldcrest, Upland Buzzard......
27 May Ruoergai 650km to into Qinghai province to Xining. We spent about 2 hours at mountain/wetland area northern of Ruoergai. Pallas's Cat (3 at two sites), Grey Wolf (1), Red Fox (5), Tibetan Fox (2), Plateau Pike (lots), Saker Falcon, Eagle Owl......

28 May Xining to Kor Kor Nor Lake to Heimahe. 400km We got Przewalski’s Gazelle (two flocks at two sites total 40+) and some wetland birds at the lake.

29-30-31 May After morning research the nearby Rubber Mountain for Przewalski’s Finch and mammals, we drive to Gouli where few people reach for wildlife. We stay at ranger’s base where can provide home made meal & accommodation (total 12 beds) and a big sitting room where can easy lying down more people by using sleeping bags.

At Rubber mountain, we easy to get the finch and some other birds. And we mainly spent out time at Rubber Mountain for mammals. We used to see Pallas’s Cat and Wolf in out former trips but this time we only get Tibetan & Red Fox.

The two days at Gouli is excellent through the basic food and accommodation, we did daily trips to different valley nearby.

No.1 Valley: Snow Leopard (only 1 time), Pallas’s Cat (2 times at two sites), Kiang (lots), Blue Sheep (lots), Tibetan Gazelle (lots), Wolf (1), high possibility on Brown Bear (we did not see).

Tibetan Fox
Kiang

No.2 Valley: Blue Sheep, Red Deer, Wooly Hare, Perfect habitat for Lynx but we saw at Valley 3.

No.3 valley where our base located: Blue Sheep, Lynx (only 1 but view 2 hours), Red Deer, Wooly Hare

1 June After good trip at Gouli area, we say goodbye and show thanks for the husband & wife and drive 420km to Xidatan for the expedition of Wild Yak Vally for Sillem’s Rosefinch

Here is Xidatan base: 16 beds in 7 rooms at 2nd floor and meals available downstairs

Our vehicles:
2 June 12 participants by three 4WD cars: first day of the Sillem’s Rosefinch expedition: FAILED
We started at 4am and about 6 hours later arrive at Sillem’s Rosefinch site. The last 30km is horrible and no obvious track and what you can do is drive along the river bank/sand/grassland/terrain and find your own way. Finally we get there at about 10.00am and searched the site inch by inch for 4 hours and have to decide to return before the iced land melt. Although we saw some quality mammals (Brown Bear, Tibetan Antelope, Argali, Wild Yak) but we are still very sad of the first day expedition. This is a 8-year plan but we can not see it!

3 June 7 participants by two 4WD cars: second day of the Sillem’s Rosefinch expedition: SUCCEED!!
Thanks the decision we MUST return again and we start at 4am again. 2 cars and 7 participants. Head to Sillem’s Site directly without any stop for other wildlife. We reached Sillem’s Rosefinch site at about 07.30am, and saw the bird in half an hour. We succeed!!

07.30am we got there, I handed the job to each participants: Parus sweep the higher rocky area where should be the nests located, Tang Jun and Robbi plus two ladies (Zhong & Yang) stay in the middle where mainly the feeding area, Jay Wu scan the lower area. We split up and start the mission.

At about 07.50, I heard one very weak whistling from somewhere higher right in front of me, it is not the call of the Tibetan Rosefinch and the common Horned Lark, I estimated it was should be at about 30m away, then I put bins and carefully study the area. I saw a “Brandt’s Mountain Finch” feeding on the ground but with typical BROWN head, not the black one. God save me, it is the Sillem’s Rosefinch. All colleagues closed up in 2 minutes at 5080m area.

Left: Yang Xiaosui, Liu Jinsong, Robbi Zhu, Jay Wu, Zhong Hongying, Tang Jun, Parus Yang

About 5 minutes the great enjoy with the bird, we decide down hill earlier possible to search other mammals after a short hot coffee celebration.

We added Argali, Lynx, Grey Wolf, Tibetan Antelope, Tibetan Gazelle, Wild Yak into our list.
4 June Xidatan to Qumalai. 380km.
A lazy morning departure after a sit down breakfast in the hotel, we drove toward to Qumalai. The best part is 30-60km after Budongquan.
5 June: Qumalai to Yushu 220km
We spent most of our time at the mountain valley just before Zhiduo located about 1 hour drive from Qumalai. The valley at about 5km long and big mountains topped by snow at each side. Perfect place for some good quality mammals.
And then we drive from Zhiduo toward a village named Suojia where supposed to be a very good site for Snow Leopard, but according to the GPS, it is short distance (120km away) but need 5-6 hours thus you can imagine what the road should be.
We saw: Pallas’s Cat, Argali, Wild Yak, White-lipped Deer, Tibetan Fox
After check some sites which looks very good and return to Zhiduo and carry on to Yushu for overnight at very good hotel.

6 June Yushu to Nangqian and stay at Nangqian for Tibetan Bunting, Tibetan Barbax and Buff-throated Partridge

7-8 June Nangqian back to Yushu and drive into Sichuan at Shiqu where has the biggest nature reserve of Sichuan and good site for Pallas’s Cat, Kiang, Snow Leopard

9-10 June Drive 410km to Xinlong to visit the different habitat of the 7 kinds of cats. By the help of local nature reserve and we did a two days inside different valley to check the various habitat of 7-kind-cats: Snow Leopard, Leopard, Golden Cat, Chinese Mountain Cats, Lynx, Leopard Cat and Pallas’s Cat.

We not succeed to see any of them but it was a great experience to stay with local expert and enjoy the Tibetan family.
11 June drive toward back to Chengdu and stay at Yajiang for overnight 240km
Thanks for the Tibetan style breakfast and can not forget the two little girls. I am sure will back in one day even only for this family. We carry on back to Chengdu and overnight at Yajiang

12 June Back to Chengdu for celebration by Hot Pot

Total 6036km and 19 days.

Tang Jun

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<th>地点 Site</th>
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<td>喜马拉雅旱獭 Himalayan Marmot</td>
<td>青藏高原 Tibetan Plateau</td>
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<td>藏羚羊 Tibetan Antelope</td>
<td>野牛沟、曲麻莱 Wild Yak Valley</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>西伯利亚狍 Siberian Roe</td>
<td>红原、若尔盖 Hongyuan, Ruoergai</td>
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<td>藏原羚 Tibetan Gazelle</td>
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<td>间颊鼠兔 Gansu Pika</td>
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<td>白唇鹿 White-lipped Deer</td>
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<td>普氏原羚 Przewalski’s Gazelle</td>
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<td>藏野驴 Kiang</td>
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<td>岩羊 Blue Sheep</td>
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<td>猕猴 Rhesus Macaque</td>
<td>新龙 Xinlong</td>
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<td>马鹿 Red Deer</td>
<td>红原、沟里 Hongyuan Gouli</td>
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<td>隐纹松鼠 Swinhou’s Squirrel</td>
<td>若尔盖 Ruoergai</td>
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<td>雪豹 Snow Leopard</td>
<td>沟里 Gouli</td>
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<td>大耳鼠兔 Large-eared Pika</td>
<td>新龙 Xinlong</td>
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<td>猞猁 Lynx</td>
<td>沟里、野牛沟 Gouli &amp; Yak Valley</td>
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<td>小毛足鼠 Desert Hamster</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>兔狲 Pallas’s Cat</td>
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<td>藏棕熊 Brown Bear</td>
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<td>盘羊 Argali</td>
<td>野牛沟、曲麻莱 Wild Yak Valley</td>
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Tibetan Plateau include: Hongyuan, Ruoergai, Gouli, Golmud, Wild Yak Valley, Yushu, Nangqian and Shiqiu of the itinerary.
Bird list: 133

1. 藏雪鸡 Tibetan Snowcock, Tetraogallus tibetanus
2. 暗腹雪鸡 Himalayan Snowcock, Tetraogallus himalayensis
3. 黄喉雉鹑 Buff-throated Monal Partridge, Tetraophasis szechenyii
4. 大石鸡 Rusty-necklaced Partridge, Alectoris magna
5. 高原山鹑 Tibetan Partridge, Perdix hodgsoniae
6. 血雉 Blood Pheasant, Ithaginis cruentus
7. 白马鸡 White Eared Pheasant, Crossoptilon crossoptilon
8. 雉鸡 Common Pheasant, Phasianus colchicus
9. 灰雁 Greylag Goose, Anser anser
10. 斑头雁 Bar-headed Goose, Anser indicus
11. 赤麻鸭 Ruddy Shelduck, Tadorna ferruginea
12. 绿头鸭 Mallard, Anas platyrhynchos
13. 赤嘴潜鸭 Red-crested Pochard, Netta rufina
14. 红头潜鸭 Common Pochard, Aythya ferina
15. 普通秋沙鸭 Common Merganser, Mergus merganser
16. 黑啄木鸟 Black Woodpecker, Dryocopus martius
17. 戴胜 Common Hoopoe, Upupa epops
18. 大杜鹃 Common Cuckoo, Cuculus canorus
19. 普通绿鸠 Common Swift, Apus apus
20. 白腰雨燕 Pacific Swift, Apus pacificus
21. 雕鸮 Eurasian Eagle-Owl, Bubo bubo
22. 纵纹腹小鸮 Little Owl, Athene noctua
23. 岩鸽 Hill Pigeon, Columba rupestris
24. 雪鸽 Snow Pigeon, Columba leuconota
25. 山斑鸠 Oriental Turtle Dove, Streptopelia orientalis
26. 黑颈鹤 Black-necked Crane, Grus nigricollis
27. 西藏毛腿沙鸡 Tibetan Sandgrouse, Syrripphas tibetanus
28. 红脚鹬 Common Redshank, Tringa totanus
29. 鹱嘴鹬 Ibisbill, Ibisornyx struthersii
30. 蒙古沙鸻 Lesser Sand Plover, Charadrius mongolus
31. 渔鸥 Pallas's Gull, Ichthyetaetus ichthyetetus
32. 棕头鸥 Brown-headed Gull, Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus
33. 普通燕鸥 Common Tern, Sterna hirundo
34. 黑耳鸢 Black-eared Kite, Milvus lineatus
35. 胡兀鹫 Lammergeier, Gypaetus barbatus
36. 高山兀鹫 Himalayan Vulture, Gyps himalayensis
37. 大𫛭 Upland Buzzard, Buteo hemilasius
38. 金雕 Golden Eagle, Aquila chrysaetos
39. 红隼 Common Kestrel, Falco tinnunculus
40. 猎隼 Saker Falcon, Falco cherrug
41. 普通鸬鹚 Great Cormorant, Phalacrocorax carbo
42. 白鹭 Little Egret, Egretta garzetta
43. 牛背鹭 Eastern Cattle Egret, Bubulcus coromandus
44. 黄漠伯劳 Isabelline Shrike, Lanius isabellinus
45. 红尾伯劳 Brown Shrike, Lanius cristatus
46. 灰背伯劳 Grey-backed Shrike, Lanius tephronotus
47. 楔尾伯劳 Chinese Grey Shrike, Lanius sphenocercus
48. 黑头噪鸦 Sichuan Jay, Perisoreus internigrans
49. 黑尾地鸦 Mongolian Ground Jay, Podoces hendersoni
50. 地山雀 Ground Tit, Pseudopodoces humilis
51. 红嘴山鸦 Red-billed Chough, Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax
52. 黄嘴山鸦 Alpine Chough, Pyrrhocorax graculus
53. 达乌里寒鸦 Daurian Jackdaw, Coloeus dauuricus
54. 小嘴鸦鸟 Carrion Crow, Corvus corone
55. 大嘴鸦鸟 Large-billed Crow, Corvus macrorhynchos
56. 渡鸦 Common Raven, Corvus corax
57. 长尾山椒鸟 Long-tailed Minivet, Pericrocotus ethologus
58. 黑卷尾 Black Drongo, Dicrurus macrocercus
59. 河乌 White-throated Dipper, Cinclus cinclus
60. 蓝矶鸫 Blue Rock Thrush, Monticola solitarius
61. 灰头鸫 Chestnut Thrush, Turdus rubrocanus
62. 棕背黑头鸫 Kessler's Thrush, Turdus kessleri
63. 锈胸蓝姬鹟 Slaty-backed Flycatcher, Ficedula hodgsonii
64. 黑胸歌鸲 White-tailed Rubythroat, Luscinia pectoralis
65. 赭红尾鸲 Black Redstart, Phoenicurus ochruros
66. 黑喉红尾鸲 Hodgson's Redstart, Phoenicurus hodgsoni
67. 白喉红尾鸲 White-throated Redstart, Phoenicurus schisticeps
68. 红腹红尾鸲 White-winged Redstart, Phoenicurus erythrogaster
69. 蓝额红尾鸲 Blue-fronted Redstart, Phoenicurus frontalis
70. 白顶溪鸲 White-capped Water Redstart, Chaimarrornis leucocephalus
71. 红尾水鸲 Plumeless Water Redstart, Rhycornis fuliginosa
72. 白腹短翅鸲 White-bellied Redstart, Hodgsonius phoenicuroides
73. 黑喉石鵙 Siberian Stonechat, Saxicola maurus
74. 稠鳽 Northern Wheatear, Oenanthe oenanthe
75. 白顶>({name}) Pied Wheatear, Oenanthe pleschanka
76. 漠 @[name] Desert Wheatear, Oenanthe deserti
77. 黑头䴓 Chinese Nuthatch, Sitta villosa
78. 红翅旋壁雀 Wallcreeper, Tichodroma muraria
79. 白眉山雀 White-browed Tit, Poecile superciliosus
80. 金腰燕 Red-rumped Swallow, Cecropis daurica
81. 烟腹毛脚燕 Asian House Martin, Delichon dasypus
82. 戴菊 Goldcrest, Regulus regulus
83. 烟柳莺 Smoky Warbler, Phylloscopus fuliginventer
84. 棕眉柳莺 Yellow-streaked Warbler, Phylloscopus armandii
85. 淡眉柳莺 Hume’s Leaf Warbler, Phylloscopus humei
86. 暗绿柳莺 Greenish Warbler, Phylloscopus trochiloides
87. 乌嘴柳莺 Large-billed Leaf Warbler, Phylloscopus magnirostris
88. 冠纹柳莺 Claudia's Leaf Warbler, Phylloscopus claudiae
89. 山噪鹛 Plain Laughingthrush, Garrulax davidii
90. 黑额山噪鹛 Snowy-cheeked Laughingthrush, Garrulax sukatschewi
91. 大噪鹛 Giant Laughingthrush, Garrulax maximus
92. 橙翅噪鹛 Elliot’s Laughingthrush, Trochalopteron elliotii
93. 矛纹草鹛 Chinese Babax, Babax lanceolatus
94. 棕草鹛 Tibetan Babax, Babax koslowi
95. 长嘴百灵 Tibetan Lark, Melanocorypha maxima
96. 蒙古百灵 Mongolian Lark, Melanocorypha mongolica
97. 小云雀 Oriental Skylark, Alauda gulgula
98. 角百灵 Horned Lark, Eremophila alpestris
99. 麻雀 Eurasian Tree Sparrow, Passer montanus
100. 石雀 Rock Sparrow, Petronia petronia
101. 褐翅雪雀 Tibetan Snowfinch, Montifringilla adamsi
102. 白腰雪雀 White-rumped Snowfinch, Onychostruthus taczanowskii
103. 黑喉雪雀 Père David’s Snowfinch, Pyrgilauda davidiana
104. 棕颈雪雀 Rufous-necked Snowfinch, Pyrgilauda ruficollis
105. 棕背雪雀 Blanford’s Snowfinch, Pyrgilauda blanfordi
106. 白鹡鸰 White Wagtail, Motacilla alba
107. 粉红胸鹨 Rosy Pipit, Anthus roseatus
108. 领岩鹨 Alpine Accentor, Prunella collaris
109. 鸫岩鹨 Robin Accentor, Prunella rubeculoides
110. 棕胸岩鹨 Rufous-breasted Accentor, Prunella strophiata
111. 褐岩鹨 Brown Accentor, Prunella fulvescens
112. 栗背岩鹨 Maroon-backed Accentor, Prunella immaculata
113. 黄嘴朱顶雀 Twite, Linaria flavirostris
114. 林岭雀 Plain Mountain Finch, Leucosticte nemoricola
115. 高山岭雀 Brandt’s Mountain Finch, Leucosticte brandti
116. 褐头岭雀 Sillem’s Mountain Finch, Carpodacus sillemi (Sillem’s Rosefinch)
117. 普通朱雀 Common Rosefinch, Carpodacus erythrinus
118. 喜山红眉朱雀 Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch, Carpodacus pulcherrimus
119. 拟大朱雀 Streaked Rosefinch, Carpodacus rubicilloides
120. 大朱雀 Spotted Great Rosefinch, Carpodacus severtzovi
121. 藏雀 Tibetan Rosefinch, Carpodacus roborowskii
122. 黄颈拟蜡嘴雀 Collared Grosbeak, Mycerobas affinis
123. 朱鹀 Pink-tailed Rosefinch, Urocynchramus pylzowi
124. 藏鹀 Tibetan Bunting, Emberiza koslowi
125. 戈氏岩鹀 Godlewska’s Bunting, Emberiza godlewskii
126. 崖沙燕 Sand Martin, Riparia riparia  
127. 喜山鵟 Himalayan Buzzard, Buteo burmanicus  
128. 川褐头山雀 Sichuan Tit, Poecile weigoldicus  
129. 远东山雀 Japanese Tit, Parus minor  
130. 华西柳莺 Alpine Leaf Warbler, Phylloscopus occisinensis  
131. 霍氏旋木雀 Hodgson’s Treecreeper, Certhia hodgsoni  
132. 藏雪雀 Henri’s Snowfinch, Montifringilla henrici  
133. 白眉朱雀 Chinese White-browed Rosefinch, Carpodacus dubius  

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