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Report of 2020 May/June China Sichuan & Tibet Plateau Wildlife Expedition

By Tang Jun/China Mammal Tour

16 June 2020

Sillem's Rosefinch



Brown Bear



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.



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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 sincerely 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 Ruogai(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 Ruogai-Baxi Forest-Ruogai-Wetland area-Ruogai 200km

Tibetan Fox, Red Fox, Plateau Pike, Himalayan Mammot, Gansu Pika, Blue-eared Pheasant, Sichuan Jay, Snowy-cheeked & Plain & Giant & Elliot's Laughingthrush, Sichuan Tit, White-browed Tit Warbler, Black Woodpecker, Goldcrest, Upland Buzzard.....



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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 our 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).



截图@孙志勇视频

Tibetan Fox



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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 Valley for Sillem's Rosefinch
Here is Xidatan base: 16 beds in 7 rooms at 2nd floor and meals available downstairs



Our vehicles:



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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!



Brown Bear



Tibetan Antelope (Chiu) Female



3 June 7 participants by two 4WD cars: second day of the Sillem's Rosefinch expedition: SUCCEED!!



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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.



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Lynx



Wild Yak



Tibetan Gazelle



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.



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Tibetan Antelope (Chiu)



Wild Yak



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-leeped Deer, Tibetan Fox



White-lipped Deer



Argali



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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 Barbarian 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.



Tibetan Family





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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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Mammallist:

序号	物种 Species	地点 Site	序号	物种 Species	地点 Sites
1	喜马拉雅旱獭 Himalayan Marmot	青藏高原 Tibetan Plateau	17	藏羚羊 Tibetan Antelope	野牛沟、曲麻莱 Wild Yak Valley
2	西伯利亚兔 Siberian Roe	红原、若尔盖 Hongyuan, Ruoergai	18	藏原羚 Tibetan Gazelle	青藏高原 Tibetan Plateau
3	赤狐 Red Fox	若尔盖 Ruoergai	19	野牦牛 Wild Yak	野牛沟、曲麻莱 Wild Yak Valley
4	藏狐 Tibetan Fox	青藏高原 Tibetan Plateau	20	高原鼠兔 Plateau Pika	青藏高原 Tibetan Plateau
5	间颅鼠兔 Gansu Pika	若尔盖 Ruoragi	21	白唇鹿 White-lipped Deer	曲麻莱、石渠 Qumalai Shiqu
6	灰狼 Grey Wolf	青藏高原 Tibetan Plateau	22	川西鼠兔 Glover's Pike	囊谦 Nangqian
7	高原兔 Wooly Hare	青藏高原 Tibetan Plateau	23	高山麝 Alpine Musk Deer	新龙 Xinlong
8	普氏原羚 Przewalski's Gazelle	青海湖 Kor Kor Nor Lake	24	水鹿 Sambar	新龙 Xinlong
9	藏野驴 Kiang	青藏高原 Tibetan Plateau	25	鬣羚 Chinese Serow	红原 Hongyuan
10	岩羊 Blue Sheep	多处区域 Tibetan Plateau	26	猕猴 Rhesus Macaque	新龙 Xinlong
11	马鹿 Red Deer	红原、沟里 Hongyuan Gouli	27	隐纹松鼠 Swinhou's Squarrel	若尔盖 Ruoergai
12	雪豹 Snow Leopard	沟里 Gouli	28	大耳鼠兔 Large-eared Pika	新龙 Xinlong
13	猞猁 Lynx	沟里、野牛沟 Gouli & Yak Valley	29	小毛足鼠 Desert Hamster	野牛沟 Wild Yak Valley
14	兔狲 Pallas's Cat	若尔盖、沟里、曲麻莱 Ruoergai	30		
15	藏棕熊 Brown Bear	野牛沟 Wild Yak Valley	31		
16	盘羊 Argali	野牛沟、曲麻莱 Wild Yak Valley	32		

Tibetan Plateau include: Hongyuan, Ruoergai, Gouli, Golmud, Wild Yak Valley, Yushu, Nangqian and Shiqu 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-necked 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. 普通楼燕 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, *Syrhaptes tibetanus*
28. 红脚鹬 Common Redshank, *Tringa totanus*
29. 鸕嘴鹬 Ibisbill, *Ibidorhyncha struthersii*
30. 蒙古沙鸻 Lesser Sand Plover, *Charadrius mongolus*
31. 渔鸥 Pallas's Gull, *Ichthyaeetus ichthyaeetus*
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. 大鵟 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. 荒漠伯劳 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. 小嘴乌鸦 Carrion Crow, *Corvus corone*
55. 大嘴乌鸦 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. 锈胸蓝姬鸫 Slaty-backed Flycatcher, *Ficedula hodgsonii*
64. 黑胸歌鸫 White-tailed Rubythroat, *Luscinia pectoralis*
65. 赭红尾鸫 Black Redstart, *Phoenicurus ochruros*
66. 黑喉红尾鸫 Hodgson's Redstart, *Phoenicurus hodgsoni*
67. 白喉红尾鸫 White-throated Redstart, *Phoenicurus schisticeps*
68. 红腹红尾鸫 White-winged Redstart, *Phoenicurus erythrogastrus*
69. 蓝额红尾鸫 Blue-fronted Redstart, *Phoenicurus frontalis*
70. 白顶溪鸫 White-capped Water Redstart, *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*
71. 红尾水鸫 Plumbeous Water Redstart, *Rhyacornis fuliginosa*
72. 白腹短翅鸫 White-bellied Redstart, *Hodgsonius phoenicuroides*
73. 黑喉石鸫 Siberian Stonechat, *Saxicola maurus*
74. 穗鹀 Northern Wheatear, *Oenanthe oenanthe*
75. 白顶鹀 Pied Wheatear, *Oenanthe pleschanka*
76. 漠鹀 Desert Wheatear, *Oenanthe deserti*
77. 黑头鹀 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 fuligiventer*
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 davidi*
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. 粉红胸鹀 Rosy Pipit, *Anthus roseatus*
108. 领岩鹀 Alpine Accentor, *Prunella collaris*
109. 鹁岩鹀 Robin Accentor, *Prunella rubeculoides*
110. 棕胸岩鹀 Rufous-breasted Accentor, *Prunella strophata*
111. 褐岩鹀 Brown Accentor, *Prunella fulvescens*
112. 栗背岩鹀 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 Godlewski's Bunting, *Emberiza godlewskii*



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- 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*

共 133 种