

VERDITER FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa thalassina*: several 24 April 1986; one on 26 April 1987.

GREY-HEADED FLYCATCHER *Culicicapa ceylonensis*: 1–5 most days.

BLACK-THROATED TIT *Aegithalos concinnus*: 3–10 most days.

YELLOW-BELLIED TIT *Parus venustus*: two on 28 April 1987.

[GREAT TIT *Parus major*: 1 on 26 April 1987 between Mabian and Huang Nian Shan.]

GREEN-BACKED TIT *Parus monticolus*: 6–20 daily.

YELLOW-CHEEKED TIT *Parus spilonotus*: 2 on 29 April 1987.

CHESTNUT-VENTED NUTHATCH *Sitta nagaensis*: 1–4 daily. An active nest on 29 April–1 May. Not listed for Sichuan by Li (1980).

WHITE-EYE sp. *Zosterops (japonicus?)*: flock of unidentified white-eyes heard 29 April–1 May.

RUSSET SPARROW *Passer rutilans*: several near and at Huang Nian Shan in roadside scrub and tree farm areas on 24 April and one on 7 May 1986.

EURASIAN TREE-SPARROW *Passer montanus*: near settlements between Mabian and Huang Nian Shan.

GREY-CAPPED GREENFINCH *Carduelis sinica*: common in the tree farm and settlements.

BLACK-HEADED GREENFINCH *Carduelis ambigua*: 1 male at western (tree farm) edge of Huang Nian Shan on 24 April 1986.

VINACEOUS ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus vinaceus*: 1 on 29 April 1987.

LITTLE BUNTING *Emberiza pusilla*: several on 24 April 1986 and four on 26 April 1987 in secondary scrub and tree farm.

YELLOW-THROATED BUNTING *Emberiza elegans*: fairly common in second-growth and tree farm areas 24 April 1986, 26 April and 1 May 1987.

BLACK-FACED BUNTING *Emberiza spodocephala*: several in second-growth and tree farm areas on 24 April 1986.

REFERENCE

Li Guiyuan (1980) *Aves. Sichuan Fauna Economica* 1: 96–145.

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Birds observed at Dafengding Panda Reserve, Mabian county, southern Sichuan, China

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From 25 April to 6 May 1986 I ran a KingBird Tours ornithological expedition to Dafengding Panda Reserve, in the range of mountains west of Mabian city, Mabian county, southern Sichuan, south-west China. The reserve is administered by the Sichuan Forestry Department, which also operated the expedition. Expedition members were: Leslie Hogan, Walter Krawiec, W. Graham Metson, Roy Woodall and myself. Our Forestry Department interpreter was Wu Baihui.

The reserve ranges from perhaps 1,000 to 4,000 m. We camped during our entire stay as follows: 1,100 m, 25–27 April; 1,800 m, 27 April–1 May; 2,500 m, 1–4 May; 1,800 m, 4–5 May; 1,500 m 5–6 May. The part of the reserve above about 1,700 m was mostly primary forest. Below that there were fingers of primary forest, a bit of secondary forest, and much scrub and cultivation. Bamboo was abundant in the understorey from about 1,100 to 2,600 m. We heard a Giant Panda *Ailuropoda melanoleuca* at 1,800 m and found lots of scat. All camps but the first were on a broad track that cuts through the reserve and is fairly heavily travelled by the local Yi people. The weather was dismal and rainy most of the time, reducing our field time and our observations.

The objective of the expedition was to find the Sichuan Hill-Partridge *Arborophila rufipectus* and the Gold-fronted Fulvetta *Alcippe variegaticeps*, as well as to do a general avifaunal survey. We failed to find the partridge, although we found it subsequently in a rather drier and perhaps different type of forest in another part of Mabian county (see King, *Forktail*, this issue). It remains possible that the partridge exists in another part of Dafengding, but I believe it does not exist in the section of the reserve we covered as it certainly would have been calling and noticeable if it did. However, we found the rare and local Gold-fronted Fulvetta, the first record for Mabian county, but saw four birds only, suggesting the species is not common. I feel this species should be classified as threatened, because it is known from only a few localities and may not be common in any of them.

We also found five Blue-fronted Robins *Cinclidium frontale*, apparently only the second record for China. They probably breed here. Two specimens of the rare Slaty Bunting *Latoucheornis siemsseni* were found behaving territorially, a long distance from their known breeding grounds in northern Sichuan and Shaanxi province. Several Purple Cochoas *Cochoa purpurea* were heard, and the first records of Grey-hooded Parrotbills *Paradoxornis zappeyi* in Mabian county were obtained.

Square brackets signify uncertain identification, or records outside the locality in question.

ANNOTATED LIST

EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*: singles at 1,000m on 25 April and 1,200m on 27 April; single accipiters probably this species at 1,900m on 28 April, 2,200m on 4 May, and 1,500m on 6 May.

COMMON BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*: three at 2,500m on 2 May.

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos*: one at 2,500m on 2 May.

NORTHERN HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*: one at 2,500m on 2 May.

TEMMINCK'S TRAGOPAN *Tragopan temminckii*: fairly common 1,500–2,500m.

LADY AMHERST'S PHEASANT *Chrysolophus amherstiae*: common 1,000–1,500m in secondary scrub.

[WEDGE-TAILED PIGEON *Treron sphenura*: two birds, believed to be this species, heard on 28 April at 1,800m.]

ORIENTAL TURTLE-DOVE *Streptopelia orientalis*: fairly common up to 1,300m.

LARGE HAWK-CUCKOO *Cuculus sparveroides*: fairly common 1,500–2,500m.

ORIENTAL CUCKOO *Cuculus saturatus*: fairly common 1,500–2,500m.

ORIENTAL SCOPS-OWL *Otus sunia*: common 1,500–1,800m.

COLLARED OWLET *Glaucidium brodiei*: one at 2,400m on 2 and 4 May.

ASIAN BARRED OWLET *Glaucidium cuculoides*: one at 1,800m on 1 May.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*: one heard on 2 May and two heard on 3 May at 2,500m.

GREY NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus indicus*: fairly common at 2,500m, 1–4 May.

FORK-TAILED SWIFT *Apus pacificus*: eight at 2,200m on 4 May.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Picoides major*: one at 1,900m on 28 April and one at 2,400m on 2 and 4 May.

DARJEELING WOODPECKER *Picoides darjellensis*: two at 2,200m on 1 May.

CRIMSON-BREASTED WOODPECKER *Picoides cathpharius*: 2–4 daily, 2,400–2,500m, 2–4 May.

BAY WOODPECKER *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*: one at 1,300m, 26 April; one at 2,000m, 1 May; one at 2,400m, 4 May.

HUME'S SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella acutirostris*: one at 2,500m on 2 May on a grassy knoll.

BARN SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*: one at 2,500m on 3 May.

ASIAN HOUSE-MARTIN *Delichon dasypus*: 50 at 1,100m on 26 April.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*: several along river at 1,100m on 27 April and 6 May.

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*: common in cultivated areas surrounding Dafengding 25 April and 6 May.

OLIVE TREE-PIPIT *Anthus hodgsoni*: several at 1,800m on 27 and 28 April and one on 5 May.

ROSY PIPIT *Anthus roseatus*: common 1,800–2,800m, 27 April–5 May.

BLACK-WINGED CUCKOO-SHRIKE *Coracina melaschistos*: one male at 1,800m on 29 April.

[BROWN-RUMPED MINIVET *Pericrocotus cantonensis*: two believed to be this species at 1,000m on 6 May (could have been *P. divaricatus*), in scattered trees amidst cultivation.]

LONG-TAILED MINIVET *Pericrocotus ethologus*: common 1,000–2,600m, 25 April–5 May.

MOUNTAIN BULBUL *Hypsipetes mccllellandii*: two at 1,200m on 2 May, in secondary scrub near village.

BLACK BULBUL *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*: one at 1,300m on 7 May.

[BLACK DRONGO *Dicrurus macrocercus*: a loose migratory flock of about 30 in the river valley near Mabian on 25 April and five on 6 May in same area.]

HAIR-CRESTED DRONGO *Dicrurus hottentottus*: one at 1,100m on 25 April.

EURASIAN JAY *Garrulus glandarius*: one at 1,800m on 30 April and 1 May.

BLUE MAGPIE *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*: fairly common in cultivated areas 900–1,300m.

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE *Pica pica*: fairly common around cultivated areas up to 1,300m.

EURASIAN NUTCRACKER *Nucifraga caryocatactes*: one or two daily, 1,800–2,600m, 28 April–4 May.

LARGE-BILLED CROW *Corvus macrorhynchos*: a few daily up to 2,800m, 25 April–6 May.

[BROWN DIPPER *Cinclus pallasii*: one on 25 April and four on 6 May on river outside Dafengding.]

RUFOUS-BREASTED ACCENTOR *Prunella strophciata*: one at 2,300 m on 1, 2, and 4 May.

MAROON-BACKED ACCENTOR *Prunella immaculata*: four at 1,800 m on 29 April.

INDIAN BLUE ROBIN *Erithacus brunneus*: one at 1,800 m on 1 May.

ORANGE-FLANKED BUSH-ROBIN *Tarsiger cyanurus*: one at 2,400 m on 3 May.

WHITE-BROWED BUSH-ROBIN *Tarsiger indicus*: 2–5 daily, 2,400–2,500 m, 1–4 May.

PLUMBEOUS REDSTART *Rhyacornis fuliginosus*: common along streams up to 1,100 m.

BLUE-FRONTED ROBIN *Cinclidium frontale*: one seen and four others heard 2,100–2,300 m on 4 May. The bird we saw responded strongly to tape playback, behaving territorially suggesting breeding. This is apparently only the second record for this species in China, the only other record being also from south-central Sichuan.

SLATY-BACKED FORKTAIL *Enicurus schistaceus*: one or two along river at 1,100 m, 25–26 April and 6 May.

SPOTTED FORKTAIL *Enicurus maculatus*: two at 1,100 m on 26/27 April.

PURPLE COCHOA *Cochoa purpurea*: two heard on 28 April and one heard on 1 May at 1,800 m; one heard at 2,300 m on 4 May.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata*: one at 1,800 m, 1 May.

RIVER CHAT *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*: fairly common along river and streams up to 1,100 m.

[BLUE ROCKTHRUSH *Monticola solitarius*: common along river and bluffs at 700–900 m near Dafengding, 25 April and 6 May.]

SCALY THRUSH *Zoothera dauma*: one heard on 28 April and two heard on 1 May at 1,800 m.

STREAK-BREASTED SCIMITAR-BABBLER *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*: 1–5 daily, 27 April–1 May, and 4 May, 1,800–2,000 m.

SCALY-BREASTED WREN-BABBLER *Pnoepyga albiventer*: 1–10 daily, 2,300–2,600 m, 1–4 May.

PYGMY WREN-BABBLER *Pnoepyga pusilla*: 1–5 daily, 1,700–1,900 m, 27 April–1 May and 4–5 May.

RUFOUS-CAPPED BABBLER *Stachyris ruficeps*: fairly common at 1,100 m, 26–27 April.

CHINESE BABAX *Babax lanceolatus*: five at 1,500 m, 6 May.

SPOTTED LAUGHINGTHRUSH *Garrulax ocellatus*: 1–4 daily, 1,500–2,500 m, 1–6 May.

BLACK-FACED LAUGHINGTHRUSH *Garrulax affinis*: four on 2 May at 2,400 m.

RED-BILLED LEIOTHRIX *Leiothrix lutea*: common 1,100–1,800 m, 26 April–1 May and 6 May.

WHITE-BROWED SHRIKE-BABBLER *Pteruthius flaviscapis*: one on 30 April and five on 1 May at 1,800 m, two at 2,000 m on 4 May.

RED-TAILED MINLA *Minla ignotincta*: fairly common 1,700–1,900 m, 27–30 April and 4–5 May (2–10 daily).

GOLDEN-BREASTED FULVETTA *Alcippe chrysotis*: one daily 2,300–2,400 m, 1–3 May.

GOLD-FRONTED FULVETTA *Alcippe variegaticeps*: two pairs at 1,200 m on 26 April in bamboo in secondary forest. This is the first record of this rare species for Mabian county.

STREAK-THROATED FULVETTA *Alcippe cinereiceps*: 1–20 daily 1,800–2,600 m, 28 April–4 May.

GREY-CHEEKED FULVETTA *Alcippe morrisonia*: six at 1,300 m on 26 April.

STRIPE-THROATED YUHINA *Yuhina gularis*: 5–10 daily, 2,300–2,600 m.

WHITE-COLLARED YUHINA *Yuhina diademata*: five at 1,100 m on 27 April.

BLACK-CHINNED YUHINA *Yuhina nigrimenta*: 25 at 1,200–1,300 m on 26 April.

GREAT PARROTBILL *Conostoma aemodium*: 1–10 daily, 2,300–2,600 m, 1–4 May.

THREE-TOED PARROTBILL *Paradoxornis paradoxus*: 10 on 2 May and eight on 3 May, 2,400–2,600 m.

GREY-HOODED PARROTBILL *Paradoxornis zappeyi*: two at 2,400 m, 1 May. This is the first record for Mabian county for this rare species.

FULVOUS PARROTBILL *Paradoxornis fulvifrons*: two at 2,400 m and two at 2,600 m on 3 May.

GOLDEN PARROTBILL *Paradoxornis verreauxi*: eight at 1,300 m on 26 April.

CHESTNUT-HEADED TESIA *Tesia castaneocoronata*: 1–5 most days, 1,800–2,400 m, 28 April–5 May.

BROWNISH-FLANKED BUSH-WARBLER *Cettia fortipes*: common 1,000–2,200m, 25 April–6 May.

CHESTNUT-CROWNED BUSH-WARBLER *Cettia major*: one at 2,400m on 2 and 3 May.

ABERRANT BUSH-WARBLER *Cettia flavovivacea*: 1–2 daily, 2,300–2,500m, 2–4 May.

YELLOWISH-BELLIED BUSH-WARBLER *Cettia acanthizoides*: 3–8 daily, 2,200–2,600m, 1–4 May.

SPOTTED BUSH-WARBLER *Bradypterus thoracicus*: 1–2 daily, 1,800m, 28 April–1 May; 3–7 daily, 1,500–1,800m, 4–6 May.

BROWN BUSH-WARBLER *Bradypterus luteoventris*: a pair at 1,800m, 29–30 April and 5 May.

BUFF-BARRED WARBLER *Phylloscopus pulcher*: common 1,800–2,800m (3–50 daily), 27 April–4 May.

LEMON-RUMPED WARBLER *Phylloscopus proregulus*: common 1,100–2,600m (2–30 daily), 26 April–4 May.

ASHY-THROATED WARBLER *Phylloscopus maculipennis*: 1–4 daily, 1,800–2,000m, 28 April–1 May.

LARGE-BILLED LEAF-WARBLER *Phylloscopus magnirostris*: 1–5 daily, 1,100–1,900m, 26–28 April, 1 May and 6 May.

GREENISH WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochiloides*: one at 2,400m on 1 May.

BLYTH'S LEAF-WARBLER *Phylloscopus reguloides*: common to abundant, 1,100–2,200m, 26 April–1 May, 4–5 May.

CHESTNUT-CROWNED WARBLER *Seicercus castaniceps*: one at 1,200m on 26 May.

GOLDEN-SPECTACLED WARBLER *Seicercus burkii*: common (3–40 daily) 1,100–2,200m, 26 April–1 May, and 4–6 May.

RUFIOUS-GORGETED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula strophliata*: common (2–20 daily), 1,100–2,600m, 26 April–5 May.

SNOWY-BROWED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hyperythra*: uncommon (1–3 daily) 1,800–2,000m, 28–30 April and 4 May.

SLATY-BLUE FLYCATCHER *Ficedula tricolor*: fairly common (2–6 daily) 1,200–2,000m, 26–30 April and 4 May; one at 2,400m on 2 May.

[FUJIAN NILTAVA *Niltava davidi*: one on 30 April, three on 4 May and two on 5 May at 1,800m were believed to be this species.]

[RUFIOUS-BELLIED NILTAVA *Niltava sundara*: one at 1,300m on 26 April and another at 1,100m on 27 April were believed to be this species.]

BROWN-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa muttui*: four at 1,100–1,200m on 26 April.

VERDITER FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa thalassina*: two at 2,000m on 1 May.

GREY-HEADED FLYCATCHER *Culicicapa ceylonensis*: common 1,100–1,300m on 26–27 April, 2–6 daily 1,800–2,400m, 1–2 and 4 May.

FIRE-CAPPED TIT *Cephalopyrus flammiceps*: 10 on 28 April, two on 1 May and one on 4 May, 1,800–2,000m.

RUFIOUS-BELLIED TIT *Parus rubidiventris*: common 2,400–2,800m, 1–3 May.

COAL TIT *Parus ater*: four on 2 May and two on 3 May, 2,500m.

YELLOW-BELLIED TIT *Parus venustus*: five at 900m in trees in village near cultivation at edge of Dafengding on 25 April; eight on 26 April, 1,100–1,300m; one at 1,800m on 30 April.

GREY-CRESTED TIT *Parus dichrous*: two on 2 May and four on 3 May at 2,400–2,600m.

GREEN-BACKED TIT *Parus monticolus*: common 1,100–2,200m, 26 April–1 May and 4–5 May; two at 2,400m, 2 May.

YELLOW-BROWED TIT *Sylviparus modestus*: 4–6 daily 1,800–2,000m; common (12–25 daily) 2,400–2,800m.

COMMON TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris*: two at 1,800m on 27 April; two at 2,200m on 4 May.

GOULD'S SUNBIRD *Aethopyga gouldiae*: fairly common 27 April–6 May, 1,500–2,500m.

CHESTNUT-FLANKED WHITE-EYE *Zosterops erythropleura*: two at 2,400m on 2 May.

JAPANESE WHITE-EYE *Zosterops japonicus*: flock of 15 in village at 900m near Dafengding 25 April; three at 1,100m on 26 April; one at 1,800m on 30 April; 10 at 2,500m, 3 May; three at 2,400m, 4 May.

BLANFORD'S ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus rubescens*: two at 2,700m, 3 May; two at 2,400m, 4 May.

DARK-BREASTED ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus nipalensis*: one at 1,800m on 28–30 April; one at 2,500m, 3 May.

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus*: one at 1,500m on 27 April.

GREY-HEADED BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula erythaca*: one or two daily 29–30 April, 2–5 May, 1,800–2,600m.

SLATY BUNTING *Latoucheornis siemsseni*: a male behaving territorially at

1,800m, 28 April–1 May and on 5 May. Another male behaving territorially on 4 May about 300m from the first. Both were in second-growth scrub in a logged and heavily grazed valley in the forest. The territorial behaviour suggests possible breeding. The only known breeding areas are in southern Shaanxi and extreme northern Sichuan provinces. This would be a significant breeding range extension if confirmed. Territorial behaviour consisted of very strong and agitated response to playback of the respective birds' song.

EURASIAN ROCK-BUNTING *Emberiza cia*: common in cultivation edge and second-growth scrub around Dafengding, 1,100–1,400m.

YELLOW-THROATED BUNTING *Emberiza elegans*: several 1,000–1,100m in secondary scrub on 27 April; one at 1,100m, 6 May.

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Observations of Relict Gulls *Larus relictus* on passage at Beidaihe, People's Republic of China

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Relict Gulls were recorded on passage at Beidaihe in the autumns of 1986, 1987 and the spring of 1988. Most of the birds were in first-winter plumage, which had been previously unreported. Detailed descriptions of this plumage reveal the salient features of white head, dark bare parts, hindneck streaking and distinctive wing and tail pattern. Brief notes on adult winter and probable second-winter plumages are also given.

In the autumns of 1986 and 1987, and in spring 1988, numbers of Relict Gulls *Larus relictus* were seen on passage on the coast of the Gulf of Bohai, at Beidaihe, Hebei province, People's Republic of China. The status of this little-known gull was summarized by Kitson (1980) and Melville (1984), and the current and historical position of the species in China is to be the subject of a subsequent communication (Bakewell, Duff and Williams in prep.). The observations at Beidaihe are the first concentration of sightings away from the breeding areas, and were mostly of birds in previously undescribed winter plumages (although photographs of a first-winter bird at Beidaihe in autumn 1987 have recently been annotated by Grant 1988). Immature Relict Gulls have previously been described in juvenile (Auevov 1971, Kitson 1980) and first-summer (Fisher 1985) plumages. This paper summarizes the dates of occurrence, behaviour and plumage details of the species at Beidaihe. Terminology follows Grant (1986).

DATES OF OCCURRENCE

The first record of Relict Gull at Beidaihe was of an adult, in moult from summer to winter plumage, on 23 August 1986. It was present for less than half an hour after initial observation, before flying south with Common Black-headed Gulls *L. ridibundus*. This, and all subsequent observations during autumn 1986, were made on the Heng-Ho (Heng He) estuary, known as the 'Sand Flats' (Williams 1986, Williams *et al.* 1986). Two first-winter birds were recorded on 8 September, and thenceforth up to seven first-winters were present until the China Cranewatch expedition left Beidaihe on 20 November. The sedentary nature of these birds (they could be seen at any state of the tide or time of the day) and their habitual preference for particular areas on the Sand Flats suggested that a small number of birds