



## China Photo Tour

January 2-14, 2025



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Gray Peacock-Pheasant

Currently, China is one of the countries that few western photographers venture, but let me tell you this, ***you are missing wonderful locations***. In this photo tour we visited an area designed for photographers, in the southwest part of this giant country. More than 20 blinds were visited during our time there. This was a short custom tour, and our first photo tour of the country, and 13 days was nowhere near long enough, to be able to photograph the wide variety of pheasants, babblers, Woodpeckers, partridges, and other species that can be found there. Our next China Birding with a Camera (BwC) tour will be a longer one in 2026, the details of which can be found here: <https://www.tropicalbirding.com/chinabwc>

This was an easy tour, with 90% of our time being spent in blinds. These were comfortable with some of them having restrooms, and the longest distance we needed to walk to any of them was 500 m.

### Itinerary

Day 0	Arrival in Kunming
Day 1	Fly to Baoshan
Day 2	Baoshan to Baihualing
Day 3	Baihualing
Day 4	Xiashiti - Hornbilled Valley
Day 5	Xiashiti
Day 6	Xiashiti to Hongbenghe
Day 7	Xiashiti to Nonggang
Day 8	Nonggang
Day 9	Nonggang to Nanning
Day 10	Nonggang to Jianfeng Ling (Hainan)
Day 11	Jianfeng Ling
Day 12	Jianfeng Ling to Haikou
Day 13	Departure



Black-throated Sunbird

**Day 1: Baoshan**

The Photo tour started in Baoshan with lunch, after that, we drove straight to Quinhuahai National Wetland Park.

**HIGHLIGHTS:** *Greater White-fronted Goose, Black Swan, Ruddy Shelduck, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Falcated Duck, Eurasian Wigeon, Eastern Spot-billed Duck, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Red-crested Pochard, Common Pochard, Ferruginous Duck, Tufted Duck, Greater Scaup, Eurasian Moorhen, Eurasian Coot, Common Snipe, Little Grebe, Great Crested Grebe, Great Cormorant, Black-crowned Night Heron, Little Egret, Gray Heron, Common Kingfisher.*



*Common Pochard*



*Eurasian Wigeon*



*Falcated Duck*



Great Crested Grebe



Little Grebe



*Red-crested Pochard*



*Ruddy Shelduck*

**Day 2: Baoshan to Baihualing**

The elevation at Baihualing was 1535m (5035ft). Breakfast was taken at 7:00am hours, then we left the hotel at 8:30am hours and drove 2.5 hours to Baihualing. After checking in at the local hotel, we had lunch. The first activity in this town started at 13:30 hours after lunch with a full afternoon in one of the local blinds.

**Day 3: Baihualing**

Breakfast was one hour before sunrise, and after breakfast, we had a short drive to one of the blinds. We spent a full morning there but returned to town for lunch at midday. At 2:00pm we went back in the field, visiting a different blind this time until 6pm.

**These are some of the birds we photographed on these days in Baihualing:**

*Rufous-throated Partridge, Collared Owlet, Blue-throated Barbet, Crested Finchbill, Flavescent Bulbul, Red-whiskered Bulbul, Red-vented Bulbul, Davison's Leaf Warbler, Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler, Beautiful Sibia, Chestnut-vented Nuthatch, Black-breasted Thrush, Black-throated Sunbird, Orange-bellied Leafbird, Little Bunting, Great Barbet, Red-tailed Laughingthrush.*



© *Dr. D. Corvett*

*Rufous-throated Partridge*



Collared Owlet



Blue-throated Barbet





© Pablo Ceramides D.

Crested Finchbill



© Pablo Ceramides D.

Great Barbet



*Red-tailed Laughingthrush*

#### **Day 4: Baihualing to Hornbill Valley**

Breakfast was taken at 7:00am hours, after which we drove 15 minutes to our next stop, the best blind for Lady Amherst's Pheasant. From the car park to the blind was a 350 meter (1150ft) walk downhill. The activity finished at 9:30 hours, and then we returned to the hotel to check out and begin our trip to Xiashiti. The drive took around 6 hours and we took lunch on the road.

#### These are some of the birds that visited the hides there:

*Lady Amherst's Pheasant, Blue-throated Barbet, Ashy Drongo, Red-billed Blue-Magpie, Hill Prinia, Crested Finchbill, Puff-throated Babbler, Long-tailed Sibia, Beautiful Sibia, Black-headed Sibia, Rusty-fronted Barwing, Silver-eared Mesia, Scarlet-faced Liocichla, Scaly Laughingthrush, Black-breasted Thrush, Oriental Magpie-Robin, Blue Whistling-Thrush, Golden Bush-Robin, Daurian Redstart, Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush, Orange-bellied Leafbird*



*Lady Amherst's Pheasant*



*Red-billed Blue-Magpie*



© Pablo Cermeño D.

Beautiful Sibia



© Pablo Cermeño D.

Black-headed Sibia



Scarlet-faced Liiochicla



Scaly Laughingthrush

**Day 5: Xiashiti**

Elevation at Xiashiti was 1100m (3610ft). The day started at 7:00am with breakfast, then we drove to one of the blinds staying there until 11:30am, when we returned to town for lunch. At 2:00pm we visited the final blind at this location.

**These birds that visited the blind on this day:**

*Kalij Pheasant, Gray Peacock-Pheasant, Lesser Yellownape, Gray-headed Woodpecker, Greater Yellownape, Gray-backed Shrike, Common Green-Magpie, White-throated Bulbul, Gray-bellied Tesia, Indian White-eye, Red-billed Scimitar-Babbler, Brown-cheeked Fulvetta, White-crested Laughingthrush, Black-throated Laughingthrush, Rufous-bellied Niltava, Verditer Flycatcher, Hill Blue Flycatcher, Lesser Shortwing, Blue Whistling-Thrush, Little Pied Flycatcher, Black-throated Sunbird, Brown-crowned Scimitar-Babbler*



*Kalij Pheasant*



*Kalij Pheasant*



*Lesser Yellownape*



© Pablo Cervantes D.

White-crested Laughingthrush



© Pablo Cervantes D.

Red-billed Scimitar-Babbler



**Day 6: Xiashiti to Hongbenghe**

Elevation visited at Hongbenghe was 700m (2300ft). Breakfast time was 6:30am, and then we immediately drove to Hongbenghe at 7:00am, an hour's drive. We spent a full day in this area visiting two different blinds. At the end of the day we went back to Xiashiti to spend our last night in this region.

**These were the birds that visited the blinds during our visit:**

*Kalij Pheasant, Gray Peacock-Pheasant, Red Junglefowl, Asian Emerald Dove, Gray-backed Shrike, Common Green-Magpie, Collared Treepie, White-throated Bulbul, Black Bulbul, Red-whiskered Bulbul, Buff-throated Warbler, Rufous-headed Parrotbill, Pin-striped Tit-Babbler, White-hooded Babbler, Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush, Small Niltava, Rufous-bellied Niltava, Blue Whistling-Thrush, White-crowned Forktail, White-tailed Robin, Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush*



© Pablo Cervantes D.

Red-whiskered Bulbul



Gray Peacock-Pheasant



Gray-backed Shrike



*Rufous-headed Parrotbill*



*Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush*

**Day 7: Xiashiti to Nonggang**

This was a travel day, starting with a drive of around 3.5 hours from Xiashiti to Tenchong, then taking a plane from there to Chengdu. We then connected with a flight to Nanning, and after that drove 2.5 hours to our final stop in Nonggang.

**Day 8: Nonggang**

The elevation covered at Nonggang was 180m (590ft). Breakfast was taken at 7:30am, leaving the hotel one hour later and then we drove straight to the new hides in this region.

**These amazing birds were visiting the blinds in this area:**

*Blue-rumped Pitta, Common Tailorbird, Puff-throated Bulbul, Black-crested Bulbul, Red-whiskered Bulbul, Pin-striped Tit-Babbler, Gray-throated Babbler, Nonggang Babbler, Spot-necked Babbler, Buff-breasted Babbler, David's Fulvetta, White-rumped Shama, White-rumped Munia, Indochinese Green-Magpie, Asian Tit, Common Tailorbird, Yellow-eyed Babbler, Chestnut-capped Babbler, Streak-breasted Scimitar-Babb, Streaked Wren-Babbler, Oriental Magpie-Robin, Small Niltava, Siberian Rubythroat, Blue Rock-Thrush, Gray Wagtail.*



© Pablo Ceramby D.  
Blue-rumped Pitta



© Pablo Cervantes D.  
Nonggong Babbler



© Pablo Cervantes D.  
Spot-necked Babbler



*Indochinese Green-Magpie*



*Yellow-eyed Babbler*

**Day 9: Nonggang to Nanning**

Breakfast was at 7:30am, then we visited a blind in the morning, then took lunch in town and the drove 2 hours to Guangxi Chongzuo White-headed Langur National Nature Reserve, where we saw this critically endangered monkey that numbers no more than 1500 individuals in the wild. It was our last activity of the day and then we drove to Nanning where we had dinner before our flight to Sanya (Hainan), a one-hour flight.

**Highlights on this day included:**

*Bar-backed Partridge, Lesser Coucal, Asian Tit, Pallas's Leaf Warbler, Large Scimitar-Babbler, Nonggang Babbler, Silver-eared Mesia, Lesser Shortwing, Blue Rock-Thrush*



© Pablo County  
White-headed Langur



© Pablo Cervantes D.

Bar-backed Partridge



© Pablo Cervantes D.

Large Scimitar-Babbler





*Ralph Conway D.*  
Silver-eared Mesia



*Ralph Conway D.*  
Blue Rock-Thrush

**Day 10: Sanya to Hainan Tropical Rainforest NP**

The day started with breakfast at 7:00am hours, after that we went to Jianfengling, a one-and-a-half-hour drive away. We did some birding in the National Reserve, then took lunch in the reserve and after that, we drove 1.5 hours to our next stop.

**Highlights:**

*Little Grebe, Chinese Barbet, Puff-throated Bulbul, Mountain Bulbul, Light-vented Bulbul, Yellow-browed Warbler, Hainan Leaf Warbler*

**Day 11: Jianfengling**

Elevation at Jianfengling was 910m (2985ft). The day started with a 07:00am breakfast, followed by a short drive to a place where we spent the full day at a blind for pheasants and partridges. The birds we were hoping for were *Hainan Peacock-Pheasant, Silver Pheasant, and Hainan Partridge*.

**Day 12: Jianfengling**

This was our last day in China, and we spent further time in the same blind as the day before in search of Hainan partridge until 12:00pm. After that, we returned to the lodge for lunch and then drove to Haikou for the end of the tour.

**All of these birds were our targets on our days in Hainan:**

*Hainan Partridge, Silver Pheasant, Hainan Peacock-Pheasant, Indochinese Green-Magpie, Rufous-cheeked Laughingthrush, Black-throated Laughingthrush, Rufous-tailed Robin, Asian Emerald Dove, Puff-throated Bulbul, Chestnut Bulbul, White-rumped Shama, Rufous-tailed Robin, White-rumped Munia*





Hainan Partridge



Hainan Peacock-Pheasant



*© Pablo Cervantes D.*  
Silver Pheasant



*© Pablo Cervantes D.*  
Rufous-tailed Robin

**Day 13: Departure**

Departure was from Haikou.

**Gallery:**



*Asian Red-cheeked Squirrel*



*Asian Striped Squirrel*



*Assam Laughingthrush*



*Black-crested Bulbul*



*Black-streak Scimitar-Babbler*



*Black-throated Laughingthrush*



*Blue Whistling-Thrush*



*Blue-winged Minla*



© Noble County, D. *Brown-capped Scimitar-Babbler*



© Noble County, D. *Rufous-capped Babbler*



© Noble County, D. *Rufous-vented Nuthatch*





© *Nikko Combs* D Collared Treepie



© *Nikko Combs* D Common Green-Magpie



Golden Bush-Robin