



After a very long hiatus from visiting China (due to the very long and intense lock-down initiated by the covid-19 pandemic) Royle Safaris was back in Sichuan and looking for mammals again in March 2024. We ran two groups during the spring giant panda breeding season and both followed the same itinerary. Tomer Ben-Yehuda has already posted his trip report from the second trip (May 2024). This is a summary of the first trip and his trip in terms of a sightings log of which animals were seen in which place.

All of our Sichuan Mammals Tours start and end in Chengdu, after collection from Shanguliu airport in the city the group was taken direct to our panda location in the Wolong Greater Ecosystem. We keep the site a secret and our plan is to spend a week here scanning and hiking and searching for possibly the most iconic species in the world as well as seeing what else we can find there. If we get our target early we can leave here and spend some time in Labahe Natural Nature Reserve where a wealth of species can be seen including many quite easily.

From the forested hills here we head towards the Tibetan Plateau and reach the edge and the grasslands of Rouergai, after some time where we finish the trip in the very famous and great reserve of Tangjiahe, there was also a side trip to a forest near Pingwu which has a habituated group of monkeys that we also visited.

Both trips are 2 weeks long and these two combined trip resulted in seeing 47 species of mammals and over 150 species of birds. The obvious mammal highlight were sightings of 4 different **Giant Panda** (including a breeding pair and one of which was approached close by some of our clients). Other highlights included many **Chinese Red Panda**, **Chinese Mountain Cat**, **Golden Snub-nosed Monkey**, **Chinese Serow**, **Red-and-White Giant Flying Squirrel**, **Chindwan Flying Squirrel**, **Steppe Polecat**, **Asiatic Badger**, **Tibetan Wolf** and **Chinese Water Myotis**.

The first group was made up of Chris Scharf, Hinling Yueng, Andrew Kyles, Carole Howlett, Jesper Meedom, Oliver Ziesing, Martin Andersen and Susan Holmes and our second group was Tomer Ben Yehuda, Elias Sadalla, Deborah Bradely, Mark Langston, Monty Ross, Oleg Rozkho & Tatiana Raboikon.

We have 5 trips booked for 2025 now and currently no availability to join trips, however we can accommodate a private tour if anyone are interested. Please just email me direct at [info@royle-safaris.co.uk](mailto:info@royle-safaris.co.uk) for more information on how to join groups for 2026 or look into the possibility of a private tour in 2025.

We have some pictures below the sightings log from Martin Andersen, Chris Scharf, Mark Langston, Oleg Rozkho and Tomer Ben Yehuda.

Martin Royle

# Species List

Sichuan's Mammals Tour

Mar/Apr & May 2024

## *Mammals* (\* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Giant Panda	<i>Ailuropoda melanoleuca</i>
2	Chinese Red Panda	<i>Ailurus styani</i>
3	Chevier's Field Mouse	<i>Apodemus chevieiri</i>
4	Northern Hog Badger	<i>Arctonyx albogularis</i>
5	Sichuan Takin	<i>Budorcas tibetana</i>
6	Pallas's Squirrel	<i>Calloscuirus erythraeus</i>
7	Tibetan Wolf	<i>Canis himalayensis</i>
8	Siberian Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus pygargus</i>
9	Chinese Serow	<i>Capricornis milneedwardsi</i>
10	Central Asian Red Deer	<i>Cervus hangul</i>
11	Sika Deer	<i>Cervus nippon</i>
12	Perny's Long-nosed Squirrel	<i>Dremomys pernyi</i>
13	Tufted Deer	<i>Elaphodus cephalophus</i>
14	Chinese Mountain Cat	<i>Felis bieti</i>
15	Malayan Porcupine	<i>Hystrix brachyura</i>
16	Edward's Long-tailed Giant Rat	<i>Lepoldamys edwardsi</i>
17	Woolly Hare	<i>Lepus oiostolus</i>
18	Tibetan Macaque	<i>Macaca thibetana</i>
19	Himalayan Marmot	<i>Marmota himalayana</i>
20	Yellow-throated Marten	<i>Martes flavigula</i>
21	Asian Badger	<i>Meles leucurus</i>
22	Reeve's Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>

Key: WOL (Panda Location) / LAB (Labahe) / ROU (Rouergai) / DUJ (Dujiangyan) / TAN (Tangjiahe) / PIN (Pingwu)					
WOL	LAB	ROU	DUJ	TAN	PIN
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23	Steppe Polecat	<i>Mustela eversmannii</i>
24	Sichuan Myotis	<i>Myotis altarium</i>
25	Sichuan Water Myotis	<i>Myotis laniger</i>
26	Chinese Goral	<i>Naemorhedus griseus</i>
27	Confuscius Niviventer	<i>Niviventer confucianus</i>
28	Gansu Pika	<i>Ochotona cansus</i>
29	Plateau Pika	<i>Ochotona curzoniae</i>
30	Moupin Pika	<i>Ochotona thibetana</i>
31	Thoma's Pika	<i>Ochotona thomasi</i>
32	Masked Palm Civet	<i>Paguma larvata</i>
33	Red-and-white Flying Squirrel	<i>Petaurista alborufus</i>
34	Chindwan Giant Flying Squirrel	<i>Petaurista elegans</i>
35	Complex-toothed Flying Squirrel	<i>Petaurista xanthipes</i>
36	Tibetan Gazelle	<i>Procapra picticaudata</i>
37	Blue Sheep	<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>
38	Little Japanese Horseshoe Bat	<i>Rhinolophus comutus</i>
39	Golden Snub-nosed Monkey	<i>Rhinopithecus roxellana</i>
40	Sambar Deer	<i>Rusa unicolor</i>
41	Pere David's Rock Squirrel	<i>Sciurotamias davidianus</i>
42	Eurasian Wild Pig	<i>Sus scofra</i>
43	Siberian Chipmunk	<i>Tamias sibiricus</i>
44	Swinhoe's Striped Squirrel	<i>Tamiops swinhoei</i>
45	Asiatic Black Bear	<i>Ursus thibetanus</i>
46	Tibetan Fox	<i>Vulpes ferrilata</i>
47	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>

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		2			

**NB 1:** Some bats identified 100% at roosts or with good views. Others identified with spectrograms in combination with sightings (no spectrograms without visual confirmation are recorded), behaviour and habitat – so not 100% but best educated guesses. For more information please email me.

**NB 2:** Where a (T) is indicated in the above table this means the animal (or the number of animals in the brackets) were spotted and identified with the thermal imager only.

**NB 3:** A '1' denotes that the species was seen on only one of the two group trips and '2' denotes that the species was seen on both trips.

## Birds (\* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
2	Crested myna	<i>Acridotheres cristatellus</i>
3	Sooty tit	<i>Aegithalos fuliginosus</i>
4	Black-browed Tit	<i>Aegithalos iouschistos</i>
5	Himalayan swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus brevirostris</i>
6	Mrs. Gould's Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga gouldiae</i>

7	Oriental skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>
8	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
9	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>
10	Northern pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>
11	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
12	Graylag goose	<i>Anser anser</i>
13	Blyth's Pipit	<i>Anthus godlewskii</i>
14	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>
15	Rosy Pipit	<i>Anthus roseatus</i>
16	Salim Ali's swift	<i>Apus salimalii</i>
17	Golden eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>
18	Steppe eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>
19	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>
20	Little owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>
21	Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>
22	Himalayan Buzzard	<i>Buteo burmanicus</i>
23	Upland buzzard	<i>Buteo hemilasius</i>
24	Eastern buzzard	<i>Buteo japonicus</i>
25	Gray nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus jotaka</i>
26	Chinese white-browed rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus dubius</i>
27	Pink-rumped rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus waltoni</i>
28	Red-rumped swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>
29	Whiskered tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
30	Orange-bellied leafbird	<i>Chloropsis hardwickii</i>
31	Brown-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus</i>
32	Lady Amherst's Pheasant	<i>Chrysolophus amherstiae</i>
33	Black stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
34	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>
35	Brown dipper	<i>Cinclus pallasii</i>
36	Snow pigeon	<i>Columba leuconota</i>
37	Oriental Magpie-robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
38	Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>
39	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchus</i>
40	Blue eared-pheasant	<i>Crossoptilon auritum</i>
41	Gray-headed canary-flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>
42	Asian House Martin	<i>Delichon dasypus</i>
43	Rufous-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus hyperythus</i>
44	White-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus leucotos</i>
45	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus major</i>
46	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocerus</i>



47	Yellow-throated Bunting	<i>Emberiza elegans</i>
48	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>
49	Yellow-billed Grosbeak	<i>Eophona migratoria</i>
50	Horned lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>
51	Asian koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>
52	Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassina</i>
53	Saker falcon	<i>Falco cherrug</i>
54	Eurasian kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
55	Slaty-backed Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hodgsonii</i>
56	Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula strophciata</i>
57	Slaty-blue Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula tricolor</i>
58	Eurasian coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
59	Eurasian jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
60	Black-necked Crane	<i>Grus nigricollis</i>
61	Black-necked crane	<i>Grus nigricollis</i>
62	Lammergeier	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>
63	Himalayan Griffon	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>
64	Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler	<i>Horonis acanthizoides</i>
65	Black bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>
66	Snowy-cheeked laughingthrush	<i>Ianthocincla sukatschewi</i>
67	Blood Pheasant	<i>Ithaginis cruentus</i>
68	Tawny fish-owl	<i>Ketupa flavipes</i>
69	Gray-backed shrike	<i>Lanius tephronotus</i>
70	Crested tit-warbler	<i>Leptopoecile elegans</i>
71	Twite	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>
72	Gray-crested tit	<i>Lophophanes dichrous</i>
73	Red crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>
74	White-bellied Redstart	<i>Luscinia phoenicuroides</i>
75	Crested kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle lugubris</i>
76	Black kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
77	Rufous-necked snowfinch	<i>Montifringilla ruficollis</i>
78	White-rumped snowfinch	<i>Montifringilla taczanowskii</i>
79	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
80	Gray Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
81	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>
82	Ferruginous Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa ferruginea</i>
83	Blue-whislting Thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>
84	Fujian Nilvata	<i>Nilvata davidi</i>
85	Eurasian Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>
86	Isabelline wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>

87	White-rumped Snowfinch	<i>Onychostruthus taczanowskii</i>
88	Oriental scops-owl	<i>Otus sunia</i>
89	White-collared Yuhina	<i>Parayuhina diademata</i>
90	Green-backed Tit	<i>Parus monticolus</i>
91	Russet sparrow	<i>Passer cinnamomeus</i>
92	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>
93	Long-tailed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>
94	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>
95	Rufous-vented Tit	<i>Periparus rubidiventris</i>
96	Yellow-bellied Tit	<i>Periparus venustulus</i>
97	Sichuan jay	<i>Perisoreus internigrans</i>
98	Ring-necked pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
99	Daurian Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus auroreus</i>
100	Blue-fronted Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus frontalis</i>
101	White-capped Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus leucocephalus</i>
102	Black redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
103	White-throated redstart	<i>Phoenicurus schisticeps</i>
104	Tickell's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus affinis</i>
105	Claudia's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus claudiae</i>
106	Emei Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus emeiensis</i>
107	Sichuan Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus forrestri</i>
108	Martens' Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus omeiensis</i>
109	Buff-barred warbler	<i>Phylloscopus pulcher</i>
110	Buff-throated Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus subaffinis</i>
111	Gray-crowned Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus tephrocephalus</i>
112	Greenish warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>
113	Bianchi's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus valentini</i>
114	Bianchi's warbler	<i>Phylloscopus valentini</i>
115	Chinese Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus yunnanensis</i>
116	Black-rumped magpie	<i>Pica bottanensis</i>
117	Gray-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>
118	Black-bibbed tit	<i>Poecile hypermelaenus</i>
119	Rufous-breasted Accentor	<i>Prunella strophiatea</i>
120	Ground tit	<i>Pseudopodoces humilis</i>
121	Great barbet	<i>Psilopogon virens</i>
122	Pere David's laughingthrush	<i>Pterorhinus davidi</i>
123	White-browed Laughingthrush	<i>Pterorhinus sannio</i>
124	Light-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus sinensis</i>
125	Brown-breasted bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus xanthorrhous</i>
126	Red-billed chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>

127	Gary-headed Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula erythaca</i>
128	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>
129	Vinous-throated parrotbill	<i>Sinosuthora webbiana</i>
130	Eurasian nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
131	Chestnut-vented Nuthatch	<i>Sitta nagaensis</i>
132	Collared Finchbill	<i>Spizixos semitorques</i>
133	Red-billed starling	<i>Spodiopsar sericeus</i>
134	Oriental turtle-dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>
135	Yellow-browed Tit	<i>Sylviparus modestus</i>
136	Little grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
137	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>
138	Ruddy shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>
139	Collared owlet	<i>Taenioptynx brodiei</i>
140	Himalayan bluetail	<i>Tarsiger rufilatus</i>
141	Amur paradise-flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone incei</i>
142	Temminck's Tragopan	<i>Tragopan temminckii</i>
143	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
144	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
145	Black-faced Laughingthrush	<i>Trochalopteron affine</i>
146	Elliott's Laughingthrush	<i>Trochalopteron ellioti</i>
147	Eurasian wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
148	Gray-winged blackbird	<i>Turdus boulboul</i>
149	Chinese Blackbird	<i>Turdus mandarinus</i>
150	Chestnut Thrush	<i>Turdus rubrocanus</i>
151	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
152	Red-billed Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa erythroruyncha</i>
153	Stripe-throated Yuhina	<i>Yuhina gularis</i>
154	Black-chinned yuhina	<i>Yuhina nigrimenta</i>
155	Gray-capped pygmy woodpecker	<i>Yungipicus canicapillus</i>
156	Chestnut-flanked white-eye	<i>Zosterops erythropleurus</i>
157	Swinhoe's white-eye	<i>Zosterops simplex</i>





Giant Panda



Giant Panda



Asiatic Black Bear



Chinese Red Panda





Chinese Red Panda



Asian Badger



Northern Hog Badger



Steppe Polecat





Tibetan Fox



Himalayan Wolf



Chinese Mountain Cat



Masked Palm Civet





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Bharal



Reeve's Muntjac



Sichuan Takin





Central Asian Red Deer



Sambar



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Black Kite



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Collared Owlet



Little Owl



Oriental Scops Owl



Tawny Fish Owl





Griffon Vulture



Black-necked Crane



Blue-eared Pheasant



Common Pheasant





Lady Amherst's Pheasant



Temmnick's Tragopan



Stejneger's Bamboo Snake



Indian Forest Skink