

# Chapter 7

## Birds

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### Summary

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A total of 164 bird species were recorded including six species of Galliformes reported by local villagers. Four globally threatened birds were recorded during the survey including two species listed as Vulnerable, Chinese Monal and Sichuan Jay, and two species listed as Near Threatened, Chinese Grouse and White-eared Pheasant (Birdlife International 2000). Overall, bird species were significantly under-recorded during the RAP survey, partly because the survey was carried out in the post-breeding season for many species. It is also likely that many summer visitors and breeding altitudinal migrants had already departed the site prior to our survey.

At Site 1 (Danba), 100 species of 10 orders and 26 families were recorded. The number of bird observations made at in Danba County was much reduced by prolonged rain and low cloud and mist experienced on a few days during the survey. At Site 2 (Kangding), 99 species of 28 families and 8 orders were recorded. The number of species is less than expected, likely due to the relatively high human population and other frequent human activities such as farming and herb collection. Birds here were afraid of people, indicating a weaker conservation consciousness among local villagers. At Site 3 (Yajiang), 104 species of 28 families and 10 orders were recorded. In Yajiang County, the altitudinal range covered by the bird RAP teams was higher than at the other sites (3650-4400m).

### Introduction

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Birds have been shown to be useful indicators of the biological diversity of a site. Their taxonomy and global geographical distribution are relatively well documented in comparison to other taxa (ICBP 1992), which facilitates their identification and permits rapid analysis of the results of an ornithological study. The conservation status of most avian species has been reasonably well assessed (BirdLife International 2000), facilitating the comparison of surveyed. Furthermore, birds are among the most charismatic species, which can aid in the presentation of conservation recommendations to policy makers and stakeholders.

### Methods

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During the RAP survey, we tried to cover many different habitats and a wide altitude range within each site in order to document the greatest number of bird species. Surveys were carried out daily between 7:30 and 18:00 with one hour's break at around noon. Bird surveys were conducted by two groups, each made up of two specialists and nature reserve and forestry department staff who received training during the survey. Members of each group are listed in Table 7.1.

Table 7.1 Members of China RAP bird survey groups.

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	Team Leaders	Team Members
Group A	Han lianxian    Liu zhumei	Gong tianjian    Tang hao    Wang zhongming
Group B	Carol Inskipp    Shen xiaoli	Liang chunpin

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