

## Project Update: October 2009

Nan Yang, Yu Xu and Kai Zhang carried out field surveys in winter (8<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> October and 4<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> November), respectively. The objectives of the surveys were to (1) collect data about the buff-throated partridge for estimating the relative abundance in the sacred and non-sacred areas, and (2) record the bird species in the sacred and non-sacred areas, and (3) find threat factors to species, other birds and habit.

The same methods were used in estimating the relative abundance and bird species in the winter survey.

### Estimate the relative abundance

In the results, signs were encountered more frequently in coniferous forests and rhododendron shrubberies than other two vegetation types in the sacred area. In contrast, signs were encountered less frequently in coniferous forests and rhododendron shrubberies than other two vegetation types in the non-sacred area (Fig.1). Encountered efficiency in different vegetation types in the sacred area was obviously more than those in the non-sacred area, suggesting that average encountered efficiency in the sacred area was higher than in the non-sacred area.

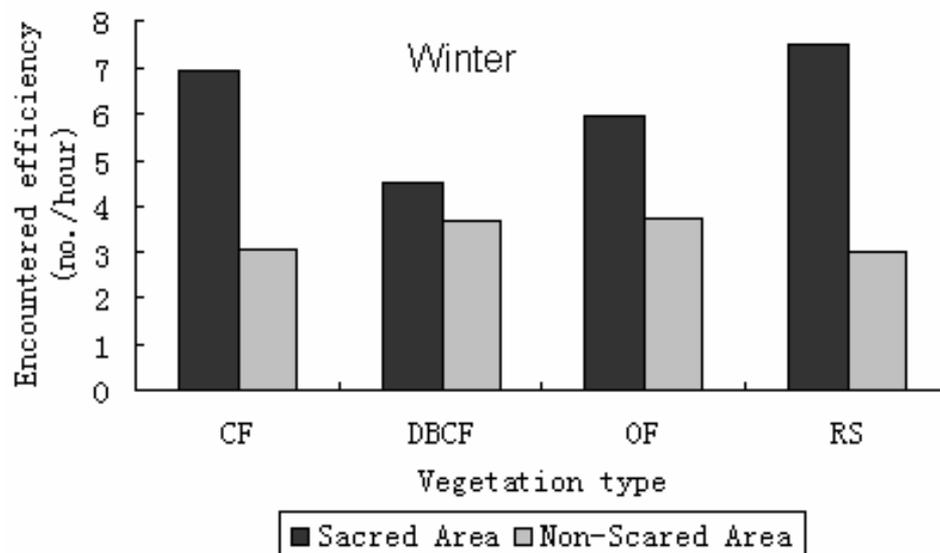


Fig. 1 Encountered efficiency in different habitats in the Sacred and Non-sacred Areas, CF= Coniferous forests, DBCF=Deciduous broad-leaved and coniferous mixed forests, OF=Oak forests, RS= Rhododendron shrubberies.

### Survey bird species

44 species which belong to 5 orders 16 families were recorded in the winter survey. The Passeriformes has absolute superiority in total number (34 species, 11 families)...A total of birds 97 species 26 families in the sacred area and non-sacred area in the summer and winter surveys (Table 1).

In the results, we can see the species and numbers of the birds of the Scared Areas was apparently more than Non-scared Areas in summer and winter.

**Table 1 bird species recorded in the scared and non-scared areas of Pamuling, respectively.**

Order	Family		Species					
	Sacred Area		Non-sacred Area		Sacred Area		Non-sacred Area	
	Summe r	Wint er	Summe r	Wint er	Summe r	Wint er	Summe r	Wint er
FALCONIFORMES	1	2		1	5	3		2
GALLIFORMES	2	1	1	1	6	4	3	3
COLUMBIFORMES	1	1	1		2	1	1	
PSITTACIFORMES	1	1			1	1		
CUCULIFORMES	1				1			
STRIGIFORMES	1				1			
APODIFORMES	1				3		1	
UPUIFORMES	1				1			
PICIFORMES	1		1		6		2	
PASSERRIFORMES	15	11	10	7	63	34	23	18
Total	25	16	13	9	89	43	30	23

COMMENT: Summer: 1st June to 31<sup>st</sup> September Winter: 1st October to 30<sup>th</sup> November (Because of hard weather in the study area we defined 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> April as winter)

### Pressures that they face

We found several threat factors or pressures that they faced. Such as (1) disease, four partridges died of eye disease in 2008 (Fig.2), and (2) big snow, and (3) predator (two female partridges were preyed when they were incubating in breeding season, including other birds, Fig4 and Fig 5), and (5) forest exploitation for building and fuel wood in non-scared area (Fig.7 and Fig.8), and (6) Tibetan people always set fire when they work in the field (Fig.9 ), and (7) stone exploitation for building in non-scared area(Fig.10).



Fig.2



Fig.3



Fig4



Fig.5



Fig.6



Fig.7



Fig.8



Fig.9

### **Unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled**

1. There was heavy snow from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 13<sup>th</sup> November, It affected the fieldwork and we will carry out more fieldwork from December 2008 to February 2009.
2. The monks built more than 20 houses around the monastery and chopped down lots of tree in the non-scared area and it affected partridge and other birds around this area. We had explained the purpose of our work to the local people and helped the Pamuling Monastery Wildlife Conservation Association carry out monitoring of wildlife, and we also cooperated with Yajiang Forestry Bureau for the management of forest and wildlife around this area.

**Immediate future plans include:**

1. Collect data of buff-throated partridges from December 2008 to February 2009,
2. Surveying bird species from December 2008 to February 2009,
3. Collect more data about the threats that partridge, other birds and habitat are facing in winter.

In this period survey, we had a good cooperation with the local people and held a meeting with the Yjiang Forestry Bureau and Pamuling Monastery Wildlife Conservation Association and talked about posters flyers and brochures to local people that will be made in the later months and talked something about the field work in this period. We also helped monks to recognize birds and carry out community monitoring of wildlife.

In this period we received skill and method support from World Pheasant Association and Nan Yang, Yu Xu and Kai Zhang's experience of the field work gained strengthen. There will be more people work in this area in the next stage fieldwork. Therefore, we are confident that we can be carried out surveys well in the future, by working well with the Yajiang Forestry Bureau and Pamuling Monastery Wildlife Conservation Association and local people.